

Hafa Adai!

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The 23rd Micronesia Islands Forum packs a full house on its first day yesterday at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

ERWIN ENCINARES

9 leaders grace MIF opening

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

The 23rd Micronesia Islands Forum kicked off on Saipan yesterday with nine Micronesian leaders talking about the common problems facing the region.

NPS: We are still working on rehabilitating AMP

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

Three years since the onslaught of Typhoon Soudelor, the American Memorial Park is still working on fully rehabilitating the park.

The park may already look pristine and fully recovered but, according to National Parks Service superintendent Barbara Alberti, its full recovery could take years due to many leaning ironwood trees—considered hazardous—that have yet to be cleared and the reconstruction of picnic tables.

“We have a number of projects in the cue for the next couple of years to fully clear and reclaim the

area but, again, it will take a little while,” she said.

The wrath of Typhoon Soudelor devastated the park’s picnic area. The park was deemed unsafe due to the massive amount of trees that were knocked over and were sprawled across the sidewalks, leaving the picnic area in ruins.

Alberti said that, about two months ago, the National Parks Service, with help from the Saipan Mayor’s Office, cleared the sidewalks of the hazardous trees.

“We are working on it...about one or two months ago, we cleared the area along the pathway between the bridge and the bell tower going

See NPS on Page 4

With 270 registered participants, the three-day forum is attended by several Micronesian leaders: Palau President Tommy M. Remengesau, Federated States of Micronesia President Peter M. Christian, Republic of Marshall Islands President Hilda Heine, Chuuk Gov. Johnson Elimo, Pohnpei Gov. Marcelo K. Peterson, Kosrae Lt. Gov. Carson K. Sigrah, Yap Lt. Gov. James Yangetmai, Guam Gov. Eddie B. Calvo, and CNMI Gov.

» **Torres appointed as MIF chair**

Ralph DLG Torres.

Torres was chosen yesterday as the 23rd chair of the MIF, succeeding Guam’s Calvo as the 22nd chair. Torres’ nomination was unopposed, leading to him bagging the chairmanship yesterday.

“...It is an honor to have the president of Palau, FSM, and RMI as well as the other governors’ vote of confidence for me to guide,” said Torres in an interview yesterday.

He noted that it was important that members of Micronesia meet to discuss issues that they face altogether, such as surviving as small islands in a world where globalization is a standard; decolonization and self-governance; and building relationships with the Pacific U.S. territories and the Freely Associated States.

“It is very important [to move forward as one Micronesia]. We have a lot of similarities on our histories and cultures, but we also need to know

See MIF on Page 4

\$7M allocated for mold remediation, new AC at Judiciary

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

In a 19-1 vote, the House of Representatives passed Tuesday a measure that appropriates \$7 million to the CNMI Judiciary to address mold and air-conditioning issues plaguing the Guma Hustisia.

In a swift first and final reading, the House of Representatives passed Rep. Angel A. Demapan’s (R-Saipan) House Bill 20-164, which appropriates \$15 million obtained from the Saipan Casino Opera-

tor’s Business Gross Revenue Tax to several entities, including the CNMI Judiciary and Docomo Pacific.

According to House Governors Communication 20-195, \$15 million from the CGRT is available for appropriation. Demapan said in an interview after the session, which started at 9:30am and ended well in the afternoon, that the funds were for only three months of CGRT. He disclosed that the remaining CGRT has yet to be audited.

As for the case of HB 20-164, the appropriation bill was passed expeditiously due to the several emergen-

cies it funded.

“...From the \$15 million, \$7 million is intended for the Judiciary to fund the mold remediation and the removal and installation of their H-VAC system, which is basically replacing their entire air-conditioning unit,” Demapan said yesterday.

According to director of courts Sonia Camacho, the mold problem has been plaguing the Guma Hustisia for about 10 years. The building has been used as the Judiciary headquarters for about 22 years.

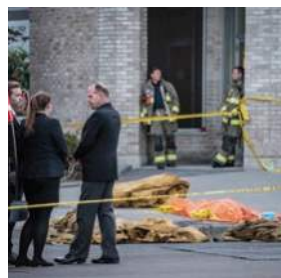
“We have made attempts in prior years to address [the mold problem], such as taking out carpeting. We’ve

See \$7M on Page 4



Demapan

INSIDE



WORLD

Details have begun to emerge about Alek Minassian, who drove a van into a sidewalk in Toronto.

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FOCUS

A joyful reunion with birth parents leads to incest and then murder.

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LIFE & STYLE

‘Infinity War’ caps a decade of success for Marvel Studios.

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Local

Man gets 3 years in prison for 'ice'

An alleged pusher of methamphetamine or "ice" who pleaded guilty to illegal possession of a controlled substance was sentenced last Tuesday to three years in prison.

Jialiang Chen, 26, was given

credit for time already served in jail. Chen has been detained for 526 days as of last Tuesday.

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio ordered Chen to pay a \$2,000 fine.

Chen, who is also known as

Brother, will not be placed on probation.

Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds recommended that Chen be sentenced to the maximum of five years imprisonment, and made to

pay \$2,000.

Assistant public defender Nancy A. Dominski recommended a time served sentence.

In April 2017, Chen pleaded guilty to illegal possession of a controlled substance, which

carries a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment and a \$2,000 fine.

Chen was found in possession of 1.6 gross grams of methamphetamine on Nov. 15, 2016 on Saipan. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Registration period now open for 2018 Corporate Challenge

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its 18th Annual Corporate Challenge on May 27, 2018 at the Minatchom Atdao Pavillion in Susupe and is now accepting teams for registration.

The 2018 Corporate Challenge theme is Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges. It is a full day of games pitting teams from different business groups. The SCC believes the challenge promotes unity, togetherness, and camaraderie.

Aside from team building, the event aims to raise funds for the SCC Education Scholarships and similar programs.

The 2017 Corporate Challenge winners were Marianas Pacific Distributors, Inc. bagging first place, Fiesta Resort & Spa getting second place, and Delta Management taking home the Spirit Award.

This year's event is expected to be bigger. Deadline for registration is on May 11, 2018, at 5pm. Slots are limited to the first 14 registered teams.

For more information, call 234-7150 or email administrator@saipanchamber.com or visit www.saipanchamber.com. *(Bea Cabrera)*



CAMPUSWIDE CLEANUP

Northern Marianas College's staff, faculty, and students gather for a group photo after participating in the annual islandwide cleanup by beautifying and cleaning the campus grounds of NMC. The event was part of Environmental Awareness Month. The campus cleanup was led by the NMC Environmental and Natural Resources Organization Student Club, the NMC student government, the Office of Student Activities and Leadership, and the Facilities Office at NMC.

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IT&E wants you to 'Explore Your World'



"We feel that the new tagline is an appropriate message and it focuses on everyone's individual stories in their lives that they capture with their handsets," said IT&E marketing manager Marcia Tomokane at the IT&E rebranding launch yesterday at IT&E office in Susupe.

BEA CABRERA

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

IT&E launched yesterday its new tagline "Explore Your World" and its new visual identity that completes the telecommunications company's rebranding, in an effort to touch base with its dynamic target market.

The rebranding falls on the 10th anniversary of PTI Pacifica's purchase of IT&E Overseas Inc. in 2008.

The tagline "Explore Your World" hopes to empower IT&E subscribers to articulate passions, rediscover old and learn new things, and inspire them to be always on-the-go with the use of technology in everyday life.

The new IT&E look is a modern take on the iconic latte stone symbol, expressing the shared culture of Guam and the CNMI. The IT&E logo and signature blue is retained, with a silver frame.

According to IT&E CEO Jim Oehlerking, the rebranding energizes IT&E's image and reinforces its commitment to the community and its core values.

"From here, the public can look forward to future projects we have planned that will improve customer experience and bring the most advanced technology to Guam and the CNMI," he said.

Natasha Tomokane, IT&E marketing manager in the CNMI, said the new tagline, replacing "Life in Motion," highlight the unique programs in each handset.

"We know our consumers have their own unique programs such as unique photos and stories that they hold in their handsets. We feel that the new tagline is an appropriate

message and it focuses on everyone's individual stories," she added.

Prior to rebranding, IT&E launched its unlimited 4G LTE data called Freedom that is complemented by Guam's only stack-able unlimited plan called Freedom +.

Tomokane said they had this promo for a limited time last year but IT&E eventually made it a permanent product.

"[Our] consumers...wanted unlimited and...we were able to deploy an unlimited plan and then, on top of that...you are able to get two more unlimited plans for a fraction of the costs. For example, if you have an \$88-a-month plan. On top of that, you can add two more unlimited plans or two handsets for only \$50 a month," she added.

ITE&E Marketing and

» Telecommunications company unveils rebranding effort

Product Development director Angela Rosario said that they have been working to make devices and services accessible.

"...From our student plan to our wide selection of postpaid and prepaid plans... We're delivering the connections that matter by putting devices in people's hands and giving them the ability to share, stream call and text without limits," she added.

To celebrate the launch of the new brand, The John Dank Show, a popular rock-reggae band in Guam, wrote an original song, *Explore Your World*, which lead singer Frank McJohn described as a representation of who they are as a band and what IT&E is as a brand.

Danny Daniel, IT&E Brand and Public Relations senior manager, said the tagline, imagery, and song create an exciting message and experience.

To date, IT&E serves more than 90,000 subscribers on its 4G LTE data network in Guam and the CNMI and, according to Tomokane, a large percent of IT&E consumers are considered the millennials.

"A lot of our millennial customers here teach their parents how to use their phone. With that understanding, even parents and grandparents are starting to grasp the idea of using data when they talk to family and friends abroad and through live streaming they are able to attend graduations and other milestones in the family from afar," she said.



From left, IT&E marketing coordinator Michelle Camacho, IT&E marketing manager CNMI Natasha Tomokane, IT & E general manager Rose Soledad, IT&E graphic artist Jose Rabago, and IT&E art director Norman Del Rosario.

BEA CABRERA

FLASH SALE! 2-DAYS ONLY

Head down to the IT&E Booth at the Flame Tree Festival on Friday, April 27 and Saturday April 28, from 6PM to 9PM and get a FREE IT&E Hydroflask or Water bottle with every phone purchase, and up to \$20 of FREE Wireless Prepaid load!



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Trough, trade-wind spark showers until Friday night

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A trough and a trade-wind surge triggered showers and thunderstorms over the CNMI yesterday morning, while another trade-wind

disturbance is expected to bring more showers in the Marianas today, Thursday, through Friday night.

According to the U.S. National Weather Service Guam, the trough moved to the west of the Marianas

late last Tuesday and the trade-wind surge to the east sparked showers and thunderstorms over the Commonwealth yesterday morning.

A monsoon trough is a tropical or subtropical feature of low pressure in summer that

extends from Asia eastward to the Philippines and occasionally into Micronesia.

Trade-wind refers to an area of enhanced showers, cloudiness, winds, and sometimes thunderstorms.

NWS said Saipan observa-

tions indicate up to nearly 2 inches of rain fell.

NMS said showers and thunderstorms are diminishing on Tinian and Saipan, but will affect Guam over the next several hours before tapering.

NMS is expecting more showers reaching the Marianas Thursday through Friday night as another trade-wind disturbance reaches the area.

“Conditions will be chang-

ing across central and eastern Micronesia later this week as a near-equatorial trough develops and brings showers and thunderstorms to most locations late in the week,” NWS said, adding that some areas will see east winds shifting to south and possibly even southwest over the weekend.

A near-equatorial trough refers to low pressure that is located near the equator.

House panel ready to hold budget hearings

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives has concurred with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres’ budget proposal of \$258.1 million for fiscal year 2019, effectively jumpstarting the budget process.

In an interview with House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), he said the House concurred during last Tuesday’s session with Torres’ budget projection for the next fiscal year and his committee is ready to hold

budget hearings in about two weeks’ time.

Demapan gave the statement moments after the House unanimously voted on Demapan’s House Concurrent Resolution 20-02, which indicates Torres’ identified funding of \$258.1 million is approved after consulting with the Department of Finance and the Office of Management and Budget in a committee meeting last week.

While \$258.1 million was identified for all of fiscal year 2019, which starts this Oct. 1, 2018 and ends on Sept. 30, 2019, only \$167

million is available for appropriation after earmarked funds are transferred.

“We are working with the departments and agencies and some of the autonomous agencies to work on their schedules,” said Demapan. He said critical agencies such as the Public School System, law enforcement, and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., among others, would be prioritized in the budget hearing scheduling.

“All the critical programs go first,” he said.

Torres announced the \$258.1-million budget for

fiscal year 2019 in an April 2 statement, taking note of a 14-percent increase, or about \$21.4 million, from the previous fiscal year’s \$236.7-million budget.

The announcement highlighted proposed earmarks of \$42.7 million to PSS, which is more than 25 percent as constitutionally mandated, and \$5.5 million to CHCC for the compensation of indigent care and care for inmates. The announcement also noted that this was the “first time in years” that both were included in the proposed budget.

\$7M

From Page 1

replaced lighting fixtures with UV-type lighting and we’ve also retro-fitted certain offices,” said Camacho in an interview. She added that the Judiciary has previously approached the Legislature to request for funding; however, competing interests due to the lack of funding in previous fiscal years hindered their efforts.

“Now that there is funding available, we hope that complete eradication [of mold] occurs,” she said, noting that it might be impossible because of the tropical climate of the CNMI.

“We have made attempts in the past to remediate the mold issues, but it just so happens that, with the air-conditioning failing us, the temperatures rose and what was previously [probably manageable] on a smaller scale, [became more difficult],” she added.

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan), the sole member of the House who voted against the passage of the bill, called for “due diligence.”

“I personally would like more time to review this as I personally just got [the assessment] and I would like more time to ask a few questions,” he said, adding that the timeline of the whole project, though still an estimate, would take about a year.

“Given if it was appropriated today, the courts would not be open tomorrow. I am not asking for three months or six months, I am asking for time until our next session so we have time to look at [the

assessment], analyze it, ask critical questions that we may have and we do not have right now,” he said. Propst earlier stated that he was not against the intent of the bill.

He said he was aware of the urgency of the issue, but he wishes to have community input on the matter as well. He stated that it would be ideal if a public hearing is held.

“I would definitely support it in our next session if we could have just a little bit more time,” he said.

Docomo appropriated \$1.3 million

In a floor amendment, Demapan proposed that \$1.3 million of the \$15 million be appropriated to Docomo Pacific to address balances between the CNMI government and the private telecommunications company.

The \$1.3 million would address the fees as stated in the memorandum of understanding between the CNMI and Docomo, dated March 10, 2016. According to floor leader Rep. Glenn Maratita (R-Rota), Docomo and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres agreed to include Tinian and Rota in connecting their fiber optic cable ATISA at a fee of \$650,000 each per island.

This decision did not sit too well with Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan). According to him, Docomo threatened to cut the fiber optic cable connections to Rota and Tinian if not paid. He noted that during Docomo’s proposal to lay the fiber optic cable, Tinian and Rota weren’t initially included.

“As a government, it saw fit that our two islands be also

included [in fiber optic cable connections]—but that came at a cost,” he said, adding that the additional payment was over \$6 million.

“I’m thinking we are one commonwealth. Who is this private company to tell us that ‘if you do not pay us, we cannot include Rota and Tinian,’” said Dela Cruz.

He disagrees with appropriating money for a private entity but he was not in a position to oppose it at the time.

“Let us not make the same mistake with other companies that come in, or even Docomo for that matter, trying to do business in the Commonwealth and, at the same time, sticking it to the people that are giving them this opportunity to do business here,” he said, adding that he would not have supported the appropriation if it was a separate legislation by itself. However, since it is in the same bill as the appropriation to the Judiciary, he would support it, he added.

Demapan, in response, said they were in a position to decide whether or not to satisfy the obligation to Docomo.

“We could choose not to fund the commitment to Tinian and Rota for the fiber optic network. Docomo Pacific, at the time in 2016, also had a choice to decide whether to connect to Rota and Tinian because it was not part of the requirement; they could have easily connected to Saipan and that was it,” Demapan explained.

He said the government bound Docomo and the CNMI into a commitment to give Rota and Tinian connectivity.

“If we decide today that we do not want to satisfy this ob-

ligation—I believe [Maratita] has met with Docomo Pacific and has been informed—that Docomo Pacific is [fine] without us satisfying the obligation, but they would terminate the services and disconnect the fiber optic connection to Tinian and Rota,” he said.

Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) later clarified that since this issue was addressed in H.B. 20-164, the House would request Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to veto future allocations to Docomo in other bills.

Future proofing

H.B. 20-164 was amended to include a provision that sets aside \$3 million in a secure account “in the case of disasters,” as proposed by House Speaker Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan).

He also added a \$700,000 appropriation for rebuilding the Sugar Dock pier.

“There was a preliminary assessment as to the total amount of the project,” he said. Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) said in a previous interview that the Sugar Dock pier project would most likely be in the millions.

With \$700,000 coming from the CGRT, the speaker noted that the remaining balance for the project would be derived from the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation funds.

The remaining \$3 million is appropriated to land compensation of secondary roads and wetlands, as certified by the Office of the Attorney General.

All amendments were adopted yesterday in the House. H.B. 20-164 now heads to the Senate for action.

NPS

From Page 1

out toward Micro Beach,” she said.

According to Alberti, the pathway is officially open to the public and there are fewer trees to take care of in terms of clearing up AMP’s picnic area. Unfortunately, there is still work to be done.

“The area beyond the pathway is still pretty barren and we’re not done,” she said. “What we’re trying to do is remove the trees that are safety hazards...the ones that are

leaning or have snapped because we’re really concerned.”

Alberti said that once all the hazardous trees are cleared and the picnic area is safe for the community to use again, the National Parks Service will work on building new picnic tables in areas where storms will no longer affect them.

“One of the things we want to take into consideration is where we develop infrastructure... we want to make sure we start thinking about putting infrastructure where it’s less likely to get damaged by storm surges.”

MIF

From Page 1

that we should help one another,” he said.

According to Torres, several members have had past relationships with the CNMI, such as Yap’s Yangetmai, who was a teacher in the Public School System for about 27 years, and Palau’s Remengesau, who has roots on Saipan.

“I want to strengthen that relationship...I think we should start expanding our resources and helping [other Micronesian islands] as much as we can,” he said.

Remengesau noted in his welcoming remarks that the massive participation yesterday was a good sign. He said that at the first MIF, which was held in Dolphin Park, Palau, the forum drew significantly less attendees.

“I believe this meeting [on] Saipan is demonstrating an incorporated effort to move this body forward and to begin the process of coordination between the host country and the secretariat, resulting in better committee performance. At the end of the day, the success of our committees in enhancing regional communication and action will define the success of the MIF,” he said.

“...As I have always said, the oceans indeed do not divide us but bring us closer together. We can prove that this is true by working together through this forum, solving the issues that need a regional response. In order to do this, we need to trust each other and

to trust this regional process of cooperation,” he added.

Bittersweet 23rd

Guam’s Calvo said that since this was his last year as governor, this also means it is his last time to be in the forum as a leader.

Although the experience may be bittersweet, Calvo said he looks forward to attending future MIF meetings as a member of the audience instead of a chief executive representing Guam.

“...I have enjoyed and learned so much with this organization in over eight years. Getting to know more of my other island neighbors, working collaboratively toward joint resolutions on many issues; and working on many opportunities together...I am going to miss them,” he said in an interview yesterday.

Regarding the importance of holding meetings between Micronesian islands, Calvo echoed the importance of collaboration.

“...There are so many things we have joint discussions on and hopefully collaborate on policies we can agree on [such as] fisheries [or] our environment,” he said.

Topics for the MIF today include discussions on the economic viability of Micronesia; a presentation on the Regional Workforce Development Council from NMI Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente; discussions on regional recycling initiatives, regional transportation, and regional health; and a presentation on climate change.

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Tina Sablan announces House candidacy

Former House lawmaker Christina “Tina” Sablan intends to run again as an independent candidate for a Precinct 2 seat in the House of Representatives.

Precinct 2 includes Susupe, Chalan Kanoa, As Lito, Fina Sisu, As Perdido, and Laly 4 on Saipan.

In a statement yesterday, Sablan, a Susupe resident, said

she is running for public office this year “because I want to help build the movement for a safer, healthier, and more beautiful Marianas.

“I want an economy that raises the quality of life for us all. And I want a government that is transparent and accountable,” Sablan said.

In the statement, she expressed concern about the

direction the CNMI is going, which she described as “poorly planned.” Sablan, who holds a master’s degree in urban and regional planning, pointed out that “unchecked economic growth may have generated more revenue in recent years, but it has come at a heavy price.”

Sablan said voters can expect her to be open, transparent, and to put the wellbeing



Sablan

of the community first. She promises to prioritize public funding for the Commonwealth’s health-care system, public safety, infrastructure, education, village revitalization, and environmental protection. She also said she will champion long-term planning and development.

“My commitment is to represent the people of Precinct 2 and the Marianas with hon-

esty, integrity, and respect,” Sablan said.

Sablan noted that she is running in this 2018 election with a coalition of other independent candidates and supporters who share similar values and goals.

The independent candidates who have announced their candidacies so far include: Edwin Propst, Lino Sablan Tenorio, Joseph Arriola Flores, Franklin Reyes Babauta, and Samantha Birmingham-Babauta for Precinct 1; Isabel Pangelinan Matsunaga for Precinct 2; Edmund

Villagomez for Precinct 3; Sheila Babauta for Precinct 4; and Vinnie Sablan for Senate.

“I am proud to be part of such a hopeful and dynamic coalition,” Sablan said.

Sablan is presently the deputy communications director and outreach coordinator for Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP). She has previously served as a news reporter and anchor for KSPN2, and as a representative for Precinct 1 in the 16th Legislature. (*Saipan Tribune*)

Management ‘boot camps’ set

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce and Island Training Solutions will be offering a second session in the afternoon for the upcoming “Management Boot Camp,” a two-part training seminar that teaches managers, team leaders, and aspiring line workers the essential skills to lead others in the workplace.

In Part 1 of this course, participants will learn how to communicate effectively, to embrace their new role and assert leadership, and to identify and manage problems using a step-by-step process.

In Part 2, participants will learn how to amplify strengths in each team member to maximize productivity and success, how to empower and motivate others, and how to manage diversity in the workplace.

The seminars will take place at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce conference room on the third floor of Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 315.

Part 1 is set for Thursday, May 24, from 1:30pm to 4:30pm and Part 2 is set for Thursday, June 21, from 1:30pm to 4:30pm. Registration fee for each course is \$50 per person for Chamber members and \$55 per person for non-members. Prepay the same attendee for both seminars and receive \$10 off of the second session! Take advantage of our special offer by signing up for both courses. Light refreshments are included. Reservations and advance payment are required, as seating is limited. To register, call (670) 234-7150 or email coordinator@saipan-chamber.com. (*PR*)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

VA sets town hall meeting

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is having a town hall meeting in the CNMI, hosted by the Veterans Affairs Pacific Island Health Care System director Jennifer Gutowski. This will be to share information, hear feedback from veterans and to answer questions on VA healthcare. The town hall are for Saipan, Rota and Tinian:

Saipan: American Memorial Park theater on May 1, from 5pm to 6:30pm

Rota: The Mayor of Rota’s conference room, May 2, from 9:30am to 12:30pm

Tinian: The Mayor of Tinian’s conference room, May 3,

from 9:30am to 11:30am.

All veterans, their families, survivors and any organization or individual who works with or on behalf of veterans are encouraged to attend.

Point of contact is Ruth Coleman at 322-0035. (*PR*)

Military training at FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military is conducting training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla until April 26, from 8am to 4pm. It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a

12-nautical mile radius of the island. (*PR*)

KHS Def Jam and progress reports

Kagman High School will be hosting its annual Def Jam and 4th Quarter Progress Report today, April 26. Progress reports will be released from 4pm to 6pm and Def Jam will occur from 6pm to 8:30pm in the cafeteria. For parents and guardians living in the northern villages, KHS will also be holding a progress report on Friday, April 27, from 4pm to 6pm at the Natibu Sports Association, next to Tanapag Middle School. Please call the school at 237-3189 if you have any questions or concerns. (*PR*)

KagES parent-teacher conferences

Kagman Elementary School will have its fourth quarter mid-progress parent-teacher conference on Thursday, April 26, from 3pm to 6pm on campus. Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend to learn about your child’s academic performance, and if she or he will need to attend the intensive summer school program. Parents who attend the children’s parent-teacher conferences three or more times during the school year will be recognized with medals and certificates at the end of the school year. For more information, call KagES at 237-3146. (*PR*)



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NMC introduces a new honor group

Northern Marianas College has announced the formation of a local chapter of the Sigma Beta Delta International Business Honor Society.

The chapter was formally installed last Friday, April 20, by admitting its administrative members. The chapter will be inducting its first charter members this Friday, April 27, 2018.

The administrative members of the chapter inducted last Friday include Cyndi Deleon Guerrero as president, Dr. Debra Steed as vice president, Bobbie Hunter as treasurer and chapter advisor, and Geri Hofschneider as co-advisor and administrative assistant.

Approximately 22 years ago, Sigma Beta Delta was created as a business honor society for institutions with regional accreditation. Sigma Beta Delta has now established over 450 chapters in 48 states and internationally.

The purposes of Sigma Beta Delta honor society is to encourage and recognize scholarship and accomplishment among students in the business department and to encourage and promote aspirations toward personal and profes-



Northern Marianas College recently announced the installation of the Sigma Beta Delta International Business Honor Society, Sigma Beta Delta. The NMC chapter was formally installed on Friday, April 20, 2018. In the photo are, from left, Bobbie Hunter, chapter treasurer and adviser; Geri Hofschneider, co-advisor and administrative secretary; Cyndi Deleon Guerrero, president; and Debra Steed, vice president.

NMC

sional improvement and a life dedicated to honorable service to humankind. It is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes.

Sigma Beta Delta also provides an opportunity for the faculty to grant students at Northern Marianas College an international recognition for their outstanding academic achievements in the business department. Candidates for bachelor degrees in the business department who rank in the upper 20 percent of their class at the time if the invitation to membership may be

inducted into membership following completion of at least one-half of the degree program in which they are enrolled. For more information about Sigma Beta Delta and the induction process at NMC visit www.marianas.edu or email barbara.hunter@marianas.edu. (NMC)

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Islandwide Wi-Fi service looked at in Guam

TAMUNING, Guam—A Guam senator has introduced a bill that seeks to provide internet access to the entire island.

Sen. Dennis G. Rodriguez

FM Sablan school notice

The Francisco M. Sablan Middle School will distribute the Fourth-Quarter Mid-Progress Reports to parents today, April 26, from 4pm to 5:30pm. Friday, April 27, is a half-day session and all students will be released at 12pm. **(PR)**

Jr., chairman of the Committee on Tourism in the Guam Legislature, introduced late Tuesday afternoon Bill 276-34 (LS), seeking out an operator to design a municipal Wi-Fi service for the island of Guam.

OPD: Defendant in sex abuse case was overcharged

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Public Defender says the case against Jeffry M. Fernandez, a 35-year-old man accused of sexually abusing a 15-year-old girl, is

It directs the Guam Economic Development Authority, in collaboration with the Office of Technology, to develop and publish a request for information relative to how an interested contractor, internet service

yet another case where the government has overcharged a defendant in violation of his constitutional rights.

Assistant public defender Heather M. Zona, counsel for Fernandez, said the government claims Fernandez

provider, or operator would design a municipal Wi-Fi service to provide internet access to the entire island of Guam.

“With an islandwide Wi-Fi system in place, it can improve our education both in

sexually penetrated the girl a single time and seeks to punish defendant for both sexually abusing the girl as well as sexually assaulting her as if she were of majority age. She speculated that the CNMI may have done this to avoid adequate investigation or to hedge its bets.

“This is improper and a violation of Mr. Fernandez’ right not to be placed in jeopardy twice for the same offense,” said Zona, in a motion to dismiss count II of the information charging him with sexual assault in the first degree.

Count 1 charged Fernandez with sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree.

Both counts arise out of a single alleged event which purportedly took place on June 8, 2016.

Zona said it simply makes no sense as count II is general while count 1 is specific, if they ever happened at all.

Zona said the court must dismiss the sexual assault charge in favor of the sexual abuse charge. She said the two counts are multiplicitous and violate defendant’s rights by placing him in jeopardy twice for the same offense.

Zona said there is no indication the Legislature intended for a defendant to be punished twice for a single alleged act. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

schools and online, enhance our emergency response system, upgrade our public safety and infrastructure systems, and drive economic growth,” said Rodriguez.

Overall, Bill 276-34 is in

response to the internet becoming an essential utility of the 21st century. A press release issued by the senator’s office did not indicate if the Wi-Fi service will be for free. **(Saipan Tribune)**

Freshwater potential discovered in Cook Islands

A backup water source to support the communities of Aitutaki in the Cook Islands to access safe and clean drinking water during drought conditions has recently been investigated.

Geophysics and electrical resistivity testing of the island carried out by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, in partnership with the Cook Islands government, identified groundwater sources that could provide useful volumes of fresh water, particularly useful during droughts.

Currently, the island relies on shallow groundwater and rainwater harvesting for most of its water needs; however, drought conditions in 2013 and 2017 led to water rationing, with most of these water sources being impacted and insufficient for water demands.

Investigations into deeper and more reliant groundwater sources will help ensure water demands are met, supplementing the existing water sources when drought conditions occur in the future.

Aitutaki’s Mayor Tekura Poo Bishop said he was pleased to have the team from Infrastructure Cook Islands, Aitutaki Island government, and SPC as it will “help in finding a more reliable source of fresh water, especially during times of drought when our community struggle.”

Aitutaki Island government

Water Works Division supervisor Tukua Upokomanu said the results are promising, stating, “We will now need to drill these targets and carry out pumping tests to confirm the extent and usefulness of the freshwater for the community.”

It is hoped the work will also be extended to neighboring islands with discussions to complete the testing in Mangaia, Atiu, and Mitiaro.

Infrastructure Cook Islands Secretary Ngametua Pokino said, “I am keen to explore further opportunities for the same work to be extended, especially for those islands that require the drilling of groundwater boreholes as their main water source.”

The work was carried out by the SPC’s Disaster Community Resilience Program, in partnership with Aitutaki Island government and Infrastructure Cook Islands, in March, with sites located for proposed drilling locations.

The findings were presented to the community and stakeholders in March and it is hoped a drilling schedule to install boreholes, and a resource management plan will now be developed for the newly discovered water source.

The mission was part of SPC’s Atoll Water Security project, funded by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. **(SPC)**

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(Chalan Kiya)
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: 234-7859
Fax: 234-5750

Attorney for Petitioner Armando Villafuerte

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE)
ESTATE OF)
ANGELINA BORJA)
PEREDO)
aka ANGELINA P. RIOS)
Deceased.)

CIVIL ACTION NO.:)
26-0252)
NOTICE OF HEARING)
Date: May 17, 2019)
Time: 9:00 am)
Associate Judge)
Joseph N. Camacho)

TO ANNIE R. TOKOYO AND MELINDA T. HOSSAIAN: NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Administratrix Daisy Ramirez has filed a Request for Evidentiary Hearing to Determine Title. The Hearing on the Motion is scheduled to be heard on the date and time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Dated this 16th day of April, 2018 .

/s/ Clerk of Court
Deputy Clerk of Court

Law Offices of Timothy H. Bellas, LLC
TIMOTHY H. BELLAS, F-0135
Attorney-at-Law
JET Realty Bldg., Suite 204
P.O. Box 502845
Saipan, MP 96950

(670) 323-2115

ATTORNEY FOR: Plaintiff
timothy@bellaslawfirm.com

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

RYU, YONG-HO,)
AKA YOO, YONG-HO,)
Plaintiff,)
vs.)
CHUNG DAE SUK,)
Defendant.)

CIVIL CASE NO.)
18-0073)
NOTICE TO APPEAR OR PLEAD

Based on an *Ex Parte* Motion for an Order to Appear or Plead pursuant to 7 CMC § 1301, by Plaintiff, RYU, YONG-HO, by and through his counsel, Timothy H. Bellas, Notice is hereby given to Defendant, CHUNG DAE SUK, that if you wish to defend against this action which has been filed against you, you must appear or plead, within Thirty (30) days from the date that this Notice last appears in this newspaper. Your failure to appear or plead within this time period will result in the entry of Judgement for the Plaintiff, granting the relief demanded by the Plaintiff in his Verified Complaint.

Dated this 13th day of April, 2018.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Superior Court

/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

JIM SARALU TAMAN
P.O. BOX 503206 SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL. 287-0007 OR 287-4451

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF)
THE APPOINTMENT OF)
AS GUARDIAN OF THE)
ESTATE OF S.A.S.T.)
Minor Child)
By)
JIM SARALU TAMAN)
Petitioner)

FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 18-0115
NOTICE OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petitioner for Appointment of Guardian for the estate of the above-named minor child by Jim Saralu Taman, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Superior Court before the Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio on the 7th day of May, 2018 at 9:00 A.M. or as soon as thereafter.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

By: /s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

James R. Rabauliman and
Rosario Elizabeth M. Camacho
P.O. Box 504252 Kagman 3, Phase 4,
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. 670-287-8431 or
670-287-7257

Pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of)
Adoption of:)
J.L.NG.R: August 16, 2017)
Minor Child)
By:)
James R. Rabauliman)
and Rosario Elizabeth)
M. Camacho)
Petitioner(s))

FCD-AD-CIVIL ACTION NO. 18-0053
NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on 14th day of May, 2018 at 9:00 A.M. in Courtroom 217, before the Honorable Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 25th day of April, 2018.

/s/ By: Patrick V. Diaz, Clerk of Court

CHARITY R. HODSON (F0487)
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 502607 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 234-1615
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CIVIL ACTION NO. 18-0120
In The Matter of the Estate Of)
Jesus Hosono Sablan,)
Deseased.)
Date: Thursday, May 24, 2018
Time: 9:00 am
Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho

NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE JESUS HOSONO SABLAN, OR HIS ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Maria Elena Castro Sablan has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of Jesus Hosono Sablan, the deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is Charity R. Hodson, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 502607, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date and time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or his Estate are hereby required by law to file their claim with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to **CHARITY R. HODSON**, Attorney at Law, at the address herein-above indicated.

Dated on the day set forth above in April, 2018.

/s/ Clerk of Court
Deputy Clerk of Court

ELIZABETH C. MANALANG
P.O. BOX 7862 SVRB SAIPAN, MP 96950
670-235-2384 / 989-5217

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ELIZABETH C.)
MANALANG)
Petitioner,)
vs.)
THOMAS C. ETRATA)
Respondent,)

FCD-PA CIVIL ACTION NO. 18-0136
SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 7862 SVRB Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 16th day of April, 2018.

/s/
Clerk of Court

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting on Monday, April 30, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Hearing Room.

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY**
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Agenda
 - Adoption of Minutes
 - March 26, 2018 - Regular Meeting
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS¹**
- III. REPORTS**
 - Chair’s Report
 - Executive Director’s Report
- IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
 - Proposed Regulations for Internet Gaming Operations
- V. NEW BUSINESS**
 - Proposed Regulations for Junket Operator
 - Proposed House Local Bill to Enact the Revised Tinian Casino Gaming Control Act of 1989
 - Contract for Professional Services for Ratification - Oliver Manglona
- VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION²**
- VII. MISCELLANEOUS/ ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

¹ Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

² Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

MVA-RFP-18-2012

For: Local Public Relations and Media Services

Submission /Closing Date: **May 15, 2018**
Time: **3:00 p.m.**

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
Procurement Office
San Jose Professional Building
Beach Rd., San Jose
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work on or after **April 16, 2018**, at the **Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan**, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified courier services by **May 15, 2018** and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the Commonwealth must notify the MVA/ Mr. David B. Muna in writing of their intent to submit a proposal in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. Participants outside the **Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands** must submit a **Notice of Intent** by any mode of written communication including facsimile at +1-670-664-3237 or email to dmuna@mymarianas.com, and must be received by 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on **May 15, 2018**.

All questions regarding this RFP must be sent to Mr. David B. Muna at dmuna@mymarianas.com or faxed to +1-670-664-3237, **no later than 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on April 30, 2018**.

/s/ Gloria C. Cavanagh
Chairperson, Board of Directors

/s/ Christopher A. Concepcion
Managing Director



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Better Together

Opinion

Hafa Adail

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Small businesses suffer when Congress play politics with migrant workers

Why are politicians held in such low esteem by many Americans? Because too often their true intentions are masked to win favor with one constituency while seeming to favor another. Look at how Congress and the White House are mishandling the H-2B immigration program for migrant workers. It's a glowing example of two-faced politics.

Small landscaping, gardening, fishing, and other businesses that depend on seasonal guest workers are struggling because the Department of Homeland Security has inexplicably slowed its issuance of H-2B visas.

Congress punted to Homeland Security this year and in 2017 by giving it authority to increase the number of H-2B visas, instead of doing it legislatively. That way Republicans could continue to claim they oppose any expansion of immigration, and Democrats could tell labor unions they stood fast against allowing more foreign workers to take American jobs.

Caught in the cross hairs of such duplicitous policy-making are people like Susan LeBoutillier, owner of a home improvement and landscaping business in Chester County. LeBoutillier uses the H-2B program to hire seven legally documented workers each spring to dig, lift, carry, and haul loads. Lacking those laborers, she has lost \$100,000 in landscaping jobs this month. "I'm sort of panicked," LeBoutillier told Inquirer staff writer Jeff Gammage. "For me, it's the difference between paying my mortgage and not paying the mortgage."

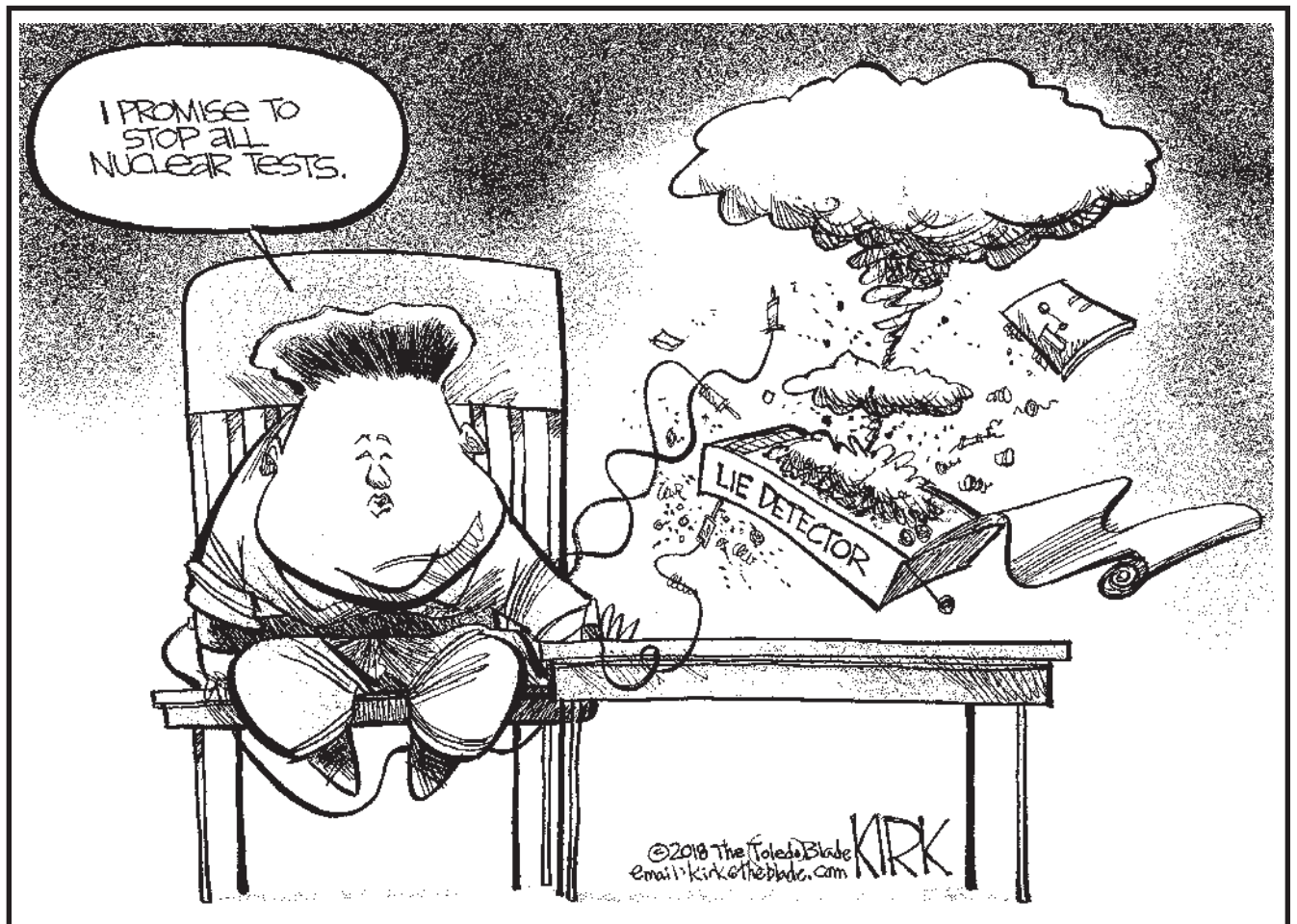
The H-2 guest worker program began in 1952 and was split into two parts by Congress in 1986; the bigger H-2A program for migrant farmworkers and H-2B to benefit small business owners like LeBoutillier, who need additional workers each spring and fall. H-2B workers make about \$13 to \$14 an hour, hardly "slave wages," as some critics describe their pay, and employers must prove they tried to hire American workers first.

It's difficult to get an H-2B visa. The annual limit is 66,000. Homeland Security, with the blessing of Congress, raised the limit to 129,000 last year and again this year. But it has slowed granting visas to a snail's pace, which makes the higher ceiling meaningless. The Texas Shrimp Association says the lack of H-2B workers and the unwillingness of Americans to take jobs requiring hard labor outdoors has cost that industry up to \$5 million a day.

Even the Trump Organization is affected by his administration's sloth in issuing H-2B visas. His Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida regularly hires seasonal workers to clean, cook, and serve. So too does Trump National Golf Club in Westchester County, N.Y. But any difficulty finding laborers apparently is a small price for Trump to pay to score political points with his anti-immigrant base.

That attitude will rule in Washington until enough voters recognize they are being played by politicians and demand better. Why did the number of available H-2B visas go up while the number granted went down? Why are members of Congress attacking the H-1B program for higher-skilled foreign workers instead of fixing its flaws? Why can't Washington put politics aside to overhaul the entire immigration system? Until it does, LeBoutillier and others will become collateral damage.

(c)2018 The Philadelphia Inquirer



America still needs its 'new seed' immigrants

The case for high-skilled immigration to the U.S. isn't hard to make. All those Ph.D.s in science and technology help build the nation's advanced infrastructure while adding to the store of human capital and generating national wealth.

As a 2016 Congressional Research Service report stated, "This workforce is seen by many as a catalyst of U.S. global economic competitiveness and is likewise considered a key element of the legislative options aimed at stimulating economic growth."

The low-skilled immigrant is less beloved by economists, and an easier target for anti-immigration groups. President Donald Trump largely refrains from attacking Asian immigrants, who tend to be highly educated and skilled. But he broadcasts calumnies about Mexicans without restraint.

Unskilled and low-skilled immigrants are already being edged out of the national portrait. As demographer William Frey has written, foreign-born arrivals from 2011-2015 are more highly educated than their predecessors: "That is, nearly half (48 percent) of recently arrived immigrants are college graduates, compared with only 28 percent of those who arrived before. Moreover fewer have not received a high school education (19 percent) than among those who arrived previously (30 percent)."

The typical complaint about low-skilled immigrants is that they drive down wages for already struggling low-income natives. (Some who complain of downward pressure on wages seem less interested in boosting the working poor when it doesn't entail restricting immigrants.) The claim about wages is both complicated and disputed. But even presuming low-skilled immigrants have a small but significant effect depressing wages, restricting their entry is a fraught response.

Two of the fastest-growing occupations of the decade ahead—home health aides and personal care aides for aging baby boomers—require minimal education and pay around \$22,000 annually. Natives are not lining up to perform those duties. It's more likely the jobs will be done by immigrants. Likewise, the agriculture industry, which is already experiencing some labor shortages, won't find many natives—or robots—eager to pick strawberries or many other crops.

Privileging skilled immigrants over those with low skills isn't a new idea; U.S. immigration policy has done so for decades.

In the national panic after the Soviet launch of Sputnik in 1957, the State Department's administrator of security and consular affairs, Roderic O'Connor, said that the era of "mass labor from whatever sources" was over. "The Soviet Sputnik has dramatically emphasized a different need," he said. "Today we need scientists and technicians. We need professional people, doctors and teachers. In short, we need highly skilled and specialized immigrants."

I found that 1958 quotation in the dissertation of Philip

By **FRANCIS WILKINSON**

Bloomberg View

Francis Wilkinson writes editorials on politics and U.S. domestic policy for Bloomberg View. He was executive editor of the Week. He was previously a national affairs writer for Rolling Stone, a communications consultant and a political media strategist.



Wolgin, an immigration expert at the Center for American Progress. "These debates aren't anything new," Wolgin said, via email. "In my dissertation I talked quite a bit about the debate, in the run up to the 1965 immigration bill, over what was then called 'new seed' immigrants—basically immigrants without skills or family ties."

The "new seed" immigrants were the rough and uneducated strivers who came to the U.S. and worked their way up. Representative Emanuel Celler of New York, a co-author of the landmark 1965 immigration bill, spoke of the new seeds who had "opened the frontier, built the railroads and laid the foundations for industry," Wolgin wrote in his thesis. Senator Estes Kefauver of Tennessee said they were "the hardy freedom-loving pioneers" who constituted "the new seed of our national existence."

In the end, the U.S. restricted legal immigration of low-skilled immigrants while tacitly allowing their immigration through illegal channels.

The economic arguments for low-skilled immigration are linked, but not identical to, the new seed argument, which is essentially a claim for the continued relevance of the American Dream. To open a path to new seeds is to recognize that luck is determined in no small part by borders. It's to declare that anyone can come from anywhere and make something solid—maybe even something spectacular—with enough gumption and hard work. And if it doesn't quite work out for you, it can still come true for your kids.

Trump and other nativists claim poor immigrants mostly hang around collecting welfare. (The self-described "king of debt," who just transferred \$1.5 trillion from the Treasury to wealthy taxpayers, grows fiscally conservative whenever out-groups make claims on public funds.) But other than refugees and asylum seekers, recent immigrants are barred from most public benefits, including programs to which they contribute tax dollars.

Shutting down low-skilled immigration, abandoning the new seeds, isn't about safeguarding the public treasury. It's about engineering the composition of the nation, much like previous efforts to bar Asians or restrict southern Europeans. It makes a gated community of the winner's circle, and takes aim at the American Dream itself.

The shameful silence of the CEOs

Congressional Republicans would be more willing to stand up to Donald Trump if their major financial backers—big business and Wall Street—had more backbone.

Ever since 1971, when then-future Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell urged corporations to mobilize politically, corporate money has flooded Washington—most of it into Republican coffers.

Today, big corporations and Wall Street essentially own the Republican Party. In the 2016 campaign cycle, they contributed \$34 to candidates from both parties for every \$1 donated by labor unions and all public interest organizations combined.

They donate far more to Republicans than do extremists such as the Koch brothers and have far more influence over the GOP than does the Tea Party.

Which means the CEOs of America's largest firms have the power to constrain the most dangerous, divisive and anti-democratic president ever to occupy the Oval Office.

So why don't they? What explains their silence?

Consider Jamie Dimon, chairman and CEO of JPMorgan Chase, the largest bank in the United States. Dimon also chairs the Business Roundtable—the most influential confab of major CEOs in America, founded in 1972, just after Powell urged CEOs to mobilize.

Dimon has gone out of his way not to criticize the mad king. While he “strongly” disagreed with Trump's equating white supremacists to protesters in Charlottesville last summer, he also counseled “not to expect smooth sailing” in the first year of a new administration.

Now well into Trump's second year, with the sailing more treacherous than ever—Trump has fired most of the adults around him and grown even more erratic and unhinged—Dimon

is even more conciliatory.

Asked last week how Trump is doing, Dimon gushed. “Regulatory stuff, good.” The potential summit with North Korea, a “great idea.” He regrets his 2017 prediction that Trump would be a one-term president, telling Fox Business, “I wish I hadn't said it, I was talking probabilistically.”

Dimon's reluctance to criticize Trump is particularly curious given Dimon's public laments about widening inequality, the explosion of student debt, America's growing racial divide, the failure of inner-city schools and the expenditure of “trillions of dollars on wars.”

One obvious explanation is found in the money rolling in from the GOP's new tax law and Trump's frenzy of deregulation. Profits have soared at JPMorgan and at other big banks and corporations. Compensation for Dimon and other CEOs has exploded.

Never underestimate the power of a fat compensation package to buy up scruples. From the perspective of Dimon and other CEOs, what's not to like about Trump and the GOP?

It turns out, plenty. As the Republican Party moves toward Trump's looniness—his xenophobia, isolationism, attacks on the press and on truth, conflicts of interest, anti-Muslim and racist provocations, climate-change denials, proposed cuts in Medicare and Medicaid, the dismantling of the Affordable Care Act, and the evisceration of the constitutional divide between church and state—Dimon and his ilk could come out big losers.

Let them try to sustain corporate profits as America slides towards authoritarianism. Let them try to maintain comfortable lifestyles as America descends into angry populist tribalism.

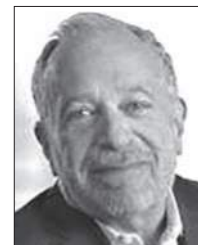
Don't Dimon and other CEOs have a moral responsibility to sound the alarm?

I'm old enough to recall a time when CEOs were thought of as “corporate statesman” with duties to the nation. As one prom-

By **ROBERT B. REICH**

Tribune News Service

Former U.S. Secretary of Labor Robert B. Reich is a professor of public policy at the University of California at Berkeley and the author of Aftershock: The Next Economy and America's Future. He blogs at www.robert-reich.org.



inent executive told Time magazine in the 1950s, Americans “regard business management as a stewardship,” acting “for the benefit of all the people.”

CEOs of that era formed the Committee for Economic Development to champion causes such as universal pre-kindergarten and campaign-finance reform.

Today's CEOs finance a larger part of our political system, yet they won't take a stand to save it.

The socially conscious Committee for Economic Development has withered, while the profit-obsessed Business Roundtable has become dominant (along with its louder cousin, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce).

The corporate statesmen of the mid-20th century have been replaced by sycophantic Dimons of the 21st—at a time when we need statesmen more than ever.

Democracy is fragile. Two weeks ago, Hungary's far-right governing party, Fidesz, gained a huge victory in national elections, further tightening Prime Minister Viktor Orban's grip on power, and signaling an end to Hungary's independent press and a deepening threat to its democracy.

If the leaders of American business remain silent about what Trump is doing to American democracy, they will be complicit in its demise.

No one likes a prig with an ax to grind

James Comey did it, naturally, for the children.

Why does anyone in Washington take advantage of the most opportune moment to make a mint off publishing a tell-all book? It's never for the profits or the sheer satisfaction of sticking it to your enemies and putting yourself in the best possible light. No, there's always some ostensible higher cause. For the former FBI director, it's demonstrating, through his own sterling example, what ethical leadership is, “especially to young people.”

That the nation's youth will be riveted to their TV screens in coming weeks, watching Comey's exquisitely thoughtful gymnastics of self-justification, and conclude that this is how to conduct themselves when they inherit the baton of the country's leadership seems extremely unlikely.

James Comey has managed the seemingly impossible. The former FBI director is locked in a death struggle with an unpopular president who makes even his allies cringe with his belittling nicknames, foolish threats and strange view of the presidency -- and somehow it is Comey who is coming away as the unlikable one.

That's because no one likes a prig, especially when he has an ax to

grind. Comey has good reason to disdain Donald Trump, who fired him in humiliating circumstances and whose warped view of the Justice Department as an institution for the protection of the president is rightly anathema to him. Comey is just the latest of Trump's adversaries, though, who are diminished by the president dragging them down to his level and exposing their weaknesses.

Every Washington memoir portrays its author as the smartest guy in the room; Comey is the most ethical guy in the room, and he lets us know it. Underneath the high-mindedness is a thirst for petty revenge. He says he took note of the size of Trump's hand when they first met -- smaller than his. He goes out of his way to say Trump looks like he wears tanning goggles.

Is all fair in a struggle with a president who calls you a “slime ball”? Maybe. But this is another instance of the country not being well-served by the president or his opponents violating norms.

It's not a healthy precedent for former FBI directors to attack presidents they served, even if briefly in terrible circumstances. It doesn't do the standing of our law enforcement and intelligence institutions any good to have the men recently entrusted with leading them, like James Comey and John Brennan, brand

By **RICH LOWRY**

King Features Synd., Inc.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.



themselves as committed partisans almost immediately upon leaving government.

It's understandable that Comey wants to get his side out. But he's already done that in his extensive memos that he made sure to leak upon his firing and in his congressional testimony. He'll probably have his moment in the sun again as a key witness in the Robert Mueller matter, depending on how it shakes out.

Yet none of that is as remunerative as cashing in as a hero of the resistance when the Mueller investigation is perhaps at peak intensity. Nothing is better than being the most righteous guy in the room -- while still getting a huge payday.

Children, take note.

A trilogy and an acrostic

Impeachment or Resignation

“Two possibilities exist: Either we are all alone in the universe or we are not. Both are equally terrifying.”—Arthur C. Clarke

Concerning President 45 two possibilities exist either he will be impeached or he will resign if one followed the other that would be fine if impeachment is achieved can resignation resist from what we know of our chief narcissist he would never resign given his bloated ego causing more Congressional chaos to exist Trump fighting from the greens of Mar A Lago he's so unpredictable no one knows what he will do more than likely keep insulting anyone in sight he's insulted many and he's not through yet as Trumpty Dumpty falls he'll keep up the fight he defends his genius, his downfall he's denying all possible roads of his exit are ‘equally terrifying’.

Put in Trust...Trump a Bust!

Put who in trust ... some mad cad
who is a must ... red state rad
Putin in trust ... Egad! Egad!
ladies and lust ... go gone gonad
Trump a bust ... aging mad lad
evangelicals no fuss ... ritual thought

In God We Trust ... spiritual sought
Trump's problem his own ... individual thought
so they leave him alone ... indivisible bought
he lies to the bone ... clavicle caught
why does 45 seem to defend ... defensive
Putin he will not offend ... offensive
his Russian Federation friend ... reprehensive
as dollars and rubles blend ... comprehensive
Put in trust to the end ... hypersensitive.

The Odium of Trump at the Podium

(More loathing, lies, and insults to despise.)

The world has come to view 45 at the podium with constant misunderstanding, lies, and cries daily he spews out more and more overt odium he lied to and insulted Canada and other allies gone the promise of better things to come swamp drainage quicksand covers all involved wallowing in grand delusion he seems very dumb so the disastrous Trump administration evolved he fired so many now he's feeling alone and isolated his monstrous ego completely refuses to admit defeat his nationalism and narcissism is never satiated he is in the kitchen but can't take derision or heat drives away long-time allies then says he needs them our nation and the rest of the world tires of his BM.

LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY ‘PEPE BATBON’ CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey “Pepe Batbon” Connolly is a retired teacher and poet living on Tinian who taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.



Nevertheless She Persisted

“I have no intention of yielding.”—US.. Sen. Elizabeth Warren

Senator from Massachusetts, born in Oklahoma Elizabeth Warren is her name, persistence her fame NEVER afraid to confront hypocrisy THE Senate president said, ‘Yield the floor’ LESS you forget what she did SHE read the letter he objected to PERSISTED despite Senator McConnell's objection I “am very proud of my heritage” HAVE you remembered now NO one should forget her INTENTION was good and sincere OFcourse we respect her YIELDING to none, domestic or foreign Thank you, Sen. Elizabeth Warren.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY

Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 20 mph.

▲88° ▼77°

FRIDAY

Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 20 mph.

▲88° ▼78°

SATURDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼77°

SUNDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

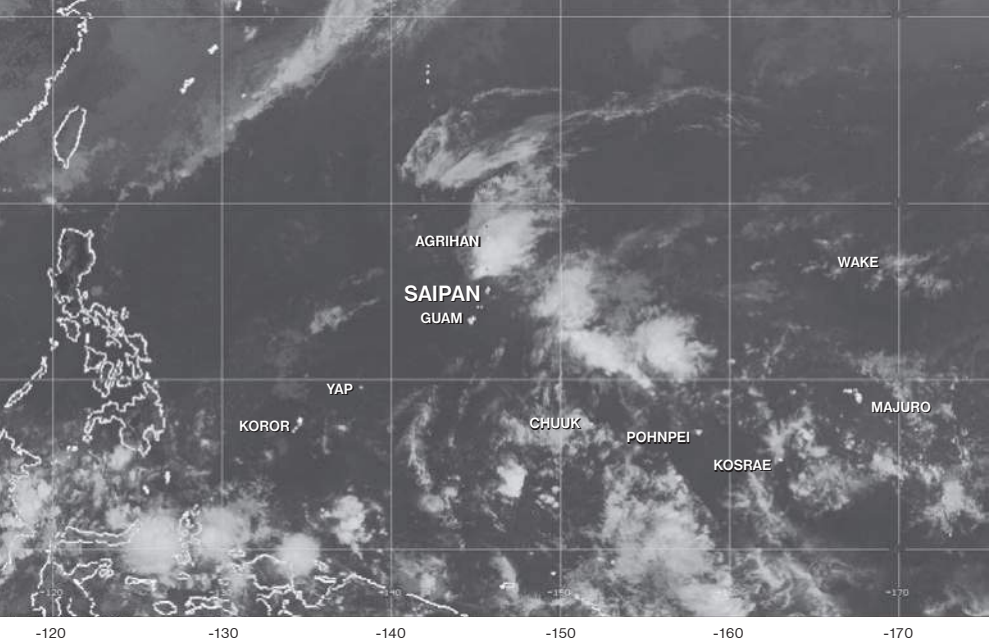
▲88° ▼77°

MONDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:00 AM,WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Models continue to show unsettled weather for the Marianas the next few days. A weak trough has already passed through the islands, but is still setting off scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms behind it across the Marianas. These should taper off around mid-morning, with isolated showers and thunderstorms the rest of the day. GFS and ECMWF still show a trade-wind surge coming in late Thursday and Friday, setting off more scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms Thursday afternoon through Friday night, with locally heavy rain a possibility on Friday. The weekend still looks fairly quiet as the mid-levels dry out.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	86° / 78°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	68° / 63°	
Beijing	Sunny	79° / 54°	
Hong Kong	Showers	81° / 73°	
Honolulu	Showers	81° / 71°	
London	Partly Cloudy	57° / 43°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	74° / 54°	
Manila	Mostly Sunny	95° / 81°	
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	61° / 52°	
Miami	Mostly Sunny	82° / 70°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	64° / 50°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	73° / 55°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	61° / 45°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	68° / 52°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	75° / 57°	
Salem	Rain	69° / 52°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	57° / 48°	
Seoul	Sunny	72° / 46°	
Tokyo	Cloudy	73° / 57°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	68° / 51°	

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:17 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.93	
11:33 AM	LOW TIDE	0.72	
4:56 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.64	
11:26 PM	LOW TIDE	0.24	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:56 AM	6:33 PM
Friday	5:56 AM	6:33 PM
Saturday	5:55 AM	6:33 PM
Sunday	5:54 AM	6:34 PM
Monday	5:54 AM	6:34 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	3:08 AM	3:16 PM
Friday	-	3:53 AM	4:10 PM
Saturday	-	4:36 AM	5:03 PM
Sunday	-	5:18 AM	5:56 PM
Monday	-	6:00 AM	6:48 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017				
DEPARTURES				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				
DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily	
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7	
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				
TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily	
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1	
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7	
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily	
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily	
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				
3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				
JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1	
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4	
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN	
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM	
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM	
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM	
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4	
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	
U043	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7	
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	
ARRIVALS				
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily	
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily	
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota	
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily	
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily	
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				
UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6	
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN				
UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6	
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily	
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN				
7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4	
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7	
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily	
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7	
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily	
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7	
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily	
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN				
3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7	
HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN				
JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4	
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7	
GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN				
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5	
BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN				
MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6	
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM	
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM	
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM	
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN				
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7	
U042	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7	
U042	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6	
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily

1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily



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Business

ON DATA SCANDAL

Cambridge Analytica fights back

LONDON (AP)—Cambridge Analytica unleashed its counterattack against claims that it misused data from millions of Facebook accounts, saying Tuesday it is the victim of misunderstandings and inaccurate reporting that portrays the company as the evil villain in a James Bond movie.

Clarence Mitchell, a high-profile publicist recently hired to represent the company, held Cambridge Analytica's first news conference since allegations surfaced that the Facebook data helped Donald Trump win the 2016 presidential election. Christopher Wylie, a former employee of Cambridge Analytica's parent, also claims that the company has links to the successful campaign to take Britain out of the European Union.

"The company has been portrayed in some quarters as almost some Bond villain," Mitchell said. "Cambridge Analytica is no Bond villain."

Cambridge Analytica didn't use any of the Facebook data in the work it did for Trump's campaign and it never did any work on the Brexit campaign, Mitchell said. Furthermore, he said, the data was collected by another company that was contractually obligated to follow data protection rules and the information was deleted as soon as Facebook raised concerns.

Mitchell insists the company has not broken any laws, but acknowledged it had commissioned an independent in-

vestigation is being conducted. He insisted that the company had been victimized by "wild speculation based on misinformation, misunderstanding, or in some cases, frankly, an overtly political position."

The comments come weeks after the scandal engulfed both the consultancy and Facebook, which has been embroiled in scandal since revelations that Cambridge Analytica misused personal information from as many as 87 million Facebook accounts. Facebook's CEO Mark Zuckerberg testified before the U.S. congressional committees and at one point the company lost some \$50 billion in value for its shareholders.

Details on the scandal continued to trickle out. On Tuesday, a Cambridge University academic said the suspended CEO of Cambridge Analytica lied to British lawmakers investigating fake news.

Academic Aleksandr Kogan's company, Global Science Research, developed a Facebook app that vacuumed up data from people who signed up to use the app as well as information from their Facebook friends, even if those friends hadn't agreed to share their data.

Cambridge Analytica allegedly used the data to profile U.S. voters and target them with ads during the 2016 election to help elect Donald Trump. It denies the charge.

Kogan appeared before the

House of Commons' media committee Tuesday and was asked whether Cambridge Analytica's suspended CEO, Alexander Nix, told the truth when he testified that none of the company's data came from Global Science Research.

"That's a fabrication," Kogan told committee Chairman Damian Collins. Nix could not immediately be reached for comment.

Kogan also cast doubt on many of Wylie's allegations, which have triggered a global debate about internet privacy protections. Wylie repeated his claims in a series of media interviews as well as an appearance before the committee.

Wylie worked for SCL Group Ltd. in 2013 and 2014.

"Mr. Wylie has invented many things," Kogan said, calling him "duplicitous."

No matter what, though, Kogan insisted in his testimony that the data would not be that useful to election consultants. The idea was seized upon by Mitchell, who also denied that the company had worked on the effort to have Britain leave the EU.

Mitchell said that the idea that political consultancies can use data alone to sway votes is "frankly insulting to the electorates. Data science in modern campaigning helps those campaigns, but it is still and always will be the candidates who win the races."

Medicare will require hospitals to post prices online

WASHINGTON (AP)—Medicare will require hospitals to post their standard prices online and make electronic medical records more readily available to patients, officials said Tuesday.

The program is also starting a comprehensive review of how it will pay for costly new forms of immunotherapy to battle cancer.

Seema Verma, head of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, said the new requirement for online prices reflects the Trump administration's ongoing efforts to encourage patients to become better-educated decision makers in their own care.

"We are just beginning on price transparency," said Verma. "We know that hospitals have this information and we're asking them to post what they have online."

Hospitals are required to disclose prices publicly, but the latest change would put that

information online in machine-readable format that can be easily processed by computers. It may still prove to be confusing to consumers, since standard rates are like list prices and don't reflect what insurers and government programs pay.

Patients concerned about their potential out-of-pocket costs from a hospitalization would still be advised to consult with their insurer. Most insurance plans nowadays have an annual limit on how much patients must pay in copays and deductibles—although traditional Medicare does not.

Likewise, many health care providers already make computerized records available to patients, but starting in 2021 Medicare would base part of a hospital's payments on how good a job they do.

Using electronic medical records remains a cumbersome task, and the Trump administration has invited technology companies to design secure

apps that would let patients access their records from all their providers instead of having to go to different portals.

Verma also announced Medicare is starting a comprehensive review of how it will pay for a costly new form of immunotherapy called CAR-T. It's gene therapy that turbocharges a patient's own immune system cells to attack cancer.

Immune system T cells are filtered from the patient's own blood and reprogrammed to target and kill cancer cells that had managed to evade them. Hundreds of millions of copies of the revved-up cells are then returned to the patient's blood to take on the cancer.

Though only a couple of such treatments have been approved for blood cancers, the cost can exceed \$370,000 per patient.

"It's a new area for the agency," said Verma. "We haven't seen drugs priced at this level and we're having to think about our strategy."

Nation

Judge rules against ending program to protect Dreamers

WASHINGTON (AP)—A federal judge ruled Tuesday against the Trump administration's decision to end a program protecting some young immigrants from deportation, calling the Department of Homeland Security's rationale against the program "arbitrary and capricious."

U.S. District Judge John D. Bates in Washington wrote that the decision to rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, known as DACA, "was unlawful and must be set aside."

Bates wrote that DHS' decision "was predicated primarily on its legal judgment that the program was unlawful. That legal judgment was virtually unexplained, however, and so it cannot support the agency's decision."

Bates gave DHS 90 days to "better explain its view that DACA is unlawful." If the department cannot come



In this Jan. 21, 2018, file photo, demonstrators rally in support of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) outside the Capitol Washington.

up with a better explanation, he wrote, it "must accept and process new as well as renewal DACA applications."

DACA allowed immigrants brought to the U.S. illegally as children, known as Dreamers, to stay and work legally under renewable permits. President Donald Trump announced last year that he would end the program started by President

Barack Obama. It was officially rescinded in March, but DHS is continuing to issue renewals because of previous court orders.

Bates' ruling Tuesday night comes in a pair of cases whose lead plaintiffs are the NAACP and Princeton University. He is the third judge to rule against administration plans to end the program.

Supreme Court's last argument is over Trump travel ban

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court is saving one of its biggest cases for last. The justices are hearing arguments Wednesday over President Donald Trump's ban on travelers from several mostly Muslim countries.

It's the last case the justices will hear until October.

The Trump administration is asking the court to reverse lower court rulings striking down the ban. The policy has been fully in effect since December, but this is the first time the justices are considering whether it violates immigration law or the Constitution.

The court will consider whether the president can indefinitely keep people out of the country based on nationality. It will also look at whether the policy is aimed at excluding Muslims from the United States.

People have been waiting in line for a seat for days. In another sign of heightened public interest, the court is taking the rare step of making an audio recording of the proceedings available just hours after the arguments end. The last time was the gay marriage arguments in 2015.

The travel ban is the first Trump policy to undergo a

full-blown Supreme Court review. The justices are looking at the third version of a policy that Trump first rolled out a week after taking office, triggering chaos and protests across the U.S. as travelers were stopped from boarding international flights and detained at airports for hours. The first version was blocked by courts and withdrawn. Its replacement was allowed to take partial effect, but expired in September.

The current version is indefinite and now applies to travelers from five countries with overwhelmingly Muslim populations—Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria and Yemen. It also affects two non-Muslim countries: blocking travelers from North Korea and some Venezuelan government officials and their families. A sixth majority Muslim country, Chad, was removed from the list this month after improving "its identity-management and information sharing practices," Trump said in a proclamation.

Trump's campaign pledge to shut down Muslim entry into the U.S., his presidential tweets about the travel ban and last fall's retweets of inflammatory videos that stoked anti-Islam sentiment

all could feature in the justices' questioning of Solicitor General Noel Francisco, defending the ban, and Neal Katyal, the former acting solicitor general under President Barack Obama. Katyal is representing the challengers.

The administration has argued that courts have no role to play because the president has broad powers over immigration and national security, and foreigners have no right to enter the country. Francisco also has said in written arguments that Trump's September proclamation laying out the current policy comports with immigration law and does not violate the Constitution because it does not single out Muslims.

The challengers, backed by a diverse array of supporting legal briefs, have said that Trump is flouting immigration law by trying to keep more than 150 million people, the vast majority of them Muslim, from entering the country. They also argue that it amounts to the Muslim ban that Trump called for as a candidate, violating the Constitution's prohibition against religious bias.

A decision in *Trump v. Hawaii*, 17-965, is expected by late June.

Asia

S. Korea, N. Korea leaders bring contrasting visions to summit

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Unification is an idea that moves most Koreans, North and South, on an emotional level.

For some, especially young people in the South, it may not be a burning issue. Details like the costs, the risks and what specifically both sides stand to gain are rarely given much thought by anyone who isn't an academic, politician or activist.

But when North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in meet on Friday, the prospect of unification, even if only in the abstract, will loom large around them.

Can Kim's nuclear-armed North and the K-pop capitalism of Moon's South ever merge into One Korea? Both leaders come to the table with distinct visions of what that would look like. And they are very different.

THE DEMOCRATIC FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF KORYO

After failing to take the South by force in the 1950s, North Korea's founder and "eternal president," Kim Il Sung, announced a plan for what

he thought a unified Korea should look like back in 1980.

He called it the Democratic Federal Republic of Koryo. Koryo was an ancient Korean kingdom from which the word Korea is derived.

Kim's plan was for an arrangement something along the lines of what Hong Kong has with China, a unified nation with two separate systems of government.

Under his plan, the North and South would respect each other's ideology, social system and autonomy. Both sides would have an equal number of representatives in a supreme national assembly with equal rights and responsibilities. The assembly would also have representatives of Koreans overseas. It would have a standing committee that would administer state affairs.

Kim stressed the need for this new federation to remain neutral and independent, avoiding in particular military alliances with others.

Not surprisingly, that looks a lot like North Korea today, with its Supreme People's Assembly, and the party's Polit-

buro and Central Committee overseeing day-to-day policies. Even the name smacks of the North, which is officially the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

An equal number of assembly seats would be a good deal for the North, which has half the South's population. The inclusion of Koreans overseas would boost that advantage even further since, for historical reasons, more often than not they have at least nominal allegiance to Pyongyang, not Seoul.

With so many devils lurking in the details, Kim's grand plan has never gotten much traction.

A KOREAN COMMONWEALTH AND BEYOND

South Korea's three-step proposal ends in a similarly predictable place: its own system writ large across the peninsula.

The first priority, according to South Korea's Unification Ministry, is to develop a sustainable relationship and resolve the issue of North Korea's development of nuclear weapons.

lice vehicle. "Security forces are on alert and we have to win this war."

2 Indian troops, 4 rebels killed in Kashmir fighting

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—A soldier, a counterinsurgency police official and four rebels were killed in a gunfight Tuesday in the Indian-controlled portion of Kashmir, police said, triggering anti-India protests and clashes. The fighting began early Tuesday when militants attacked raiding government forces with gunfire in a forest in the southern Tral area, police said. In the initial battle, a policeman and a soldier were killed. Authorities rushed reinforcements of police and soldiers and cordoned off the area, sparking a fierce exchange of gunfire in which four militants were killed, police said. As news of the fighting spread, anti-India protests and clashes erupted in Tral town. Scores of youths, mainly students, hit the roads while chanting slogans in favor of the rebels and demanding an end of Indian rule over Kashmir. They threw stones at police and paramilitary soldiers, who fired tear gas to quell the protests. The clashes

ended Tuesday evening. In recent years, Kashmiris, mainly youths, have displayed open solidarity with rebels and sought to protect them by engaging troops in street clashes during military operations.

Philippines gives Australian nun 30 days to leave country

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—The Philippines has cancelled an Australian nun's missionary visa for engaging in political activity and has given her 30 days to leave the country. Filipino President Rodrigo Duterte had ordered an investigation into 71-year-old Sister Patricia Fox as an "undesirable" foreigner. Immigration Commissioner Jaime Morente said in a statement on Wednesday that the Bureau of Immigration's board of commissioners had canceled Fox's visa and ordered her to leave due to "her involvement in partisan political activities." Fox could not be immediately be contacted for comment on Wednesday. Fox is a coordinator of a Philippine congregation of Roman Catholic nuns called Notre Dame de Sion and has lived in the Philippines for almost 30 years.

World

Suspect in Toronto van attack was student, ex-military recruit

TORONTO (AP)—Details have begun to emerge about Alek Minassian, who was charged Tuesday with 10 counts of first-degree murder and 13 of attempted murder for driving a van into a crowded sidewalk in Toronto. Here is a look at the 25-year-old suspect in one of the worst mass killings in Canada's modern history.

Minassian lived with his family in the Toronto suburb of Richmond Hill, on a street of sizeable, well-tended brick homes. Police say he had no criminal record before Monday.

His father, Vahe Minassian, wept and seemed stunned as he watched as his son, showing little emotion, make a brief court appearance Tuesday and be ordered held without bail.

When his father was asked later whether he had any message for the families of the people killed and injured, he said quietly: "I'm sorry."

Minassian attended Seneca College, according to his LinkedIn profile; a spokeswoman for the Toronto-area school didn't immediately respond to an inquiry about him Tuesday. Another student, Joseph Pham, told The Toronto Star that Minassian was in a computer programming class with him just last week.

Pham described Minassian as a "socially awkward" student who kept to himself: "He didn't really talk to anyone."

Before college, Minassian



A coroner waits to remove a dead body from the sidewalk after a driver plowed a rented van along a crowded sidewalk, killing multiple people and injuring others, Monday, April 23, 2018, in Toronto.

attended Thornlea Secondary School in Richmond Hill, graduating in 2011. A Thornlea classmate, Ari Blaff, told CBC News he recalls Minassian was "sort of in the background," not the center of any particular group of friends.

"He wasn't overly social," Blaff told the news broadcaster.

Both Thornlea and Seneca declined to discuss him Tuesday.

Minassian joined the Canadian Armed Forces last year, but his stay was brief.

The Department of National Defence says he was a member of the military from Aug. 23 to Oct. 25, but didn't complete his recruit training. He asked to be voluntarily released after 16 days, the department said.

Shortly before Monday's attack on a crowded Toronto street, a chilling post

appeared on Minassian's now-deleted Facebook account saluting Elliot Rodger, a community college student who killed six people and wounded 13 in shooting and stabbing attacks near the University of California, Santa Barbara, before apparently shooting himself to death in 2014.

Calling Rodger "the Supreme Gentleman," the Facebook post declared: "The Incel Rebellion has already begun! We will overthrow all the Chads and Stacys!"

The 22-year-old Rodger had used the term "incel"—for involuntarily celibate—in online posts raging at women for rejecting him romantically. Like-minded people in internet forums sometimes use "Chad" and "Stacy" as dismissive slang for men and women with more robust sex lives.

Activist group publishes database of Syria chemical attacks

BERLIN (AP)—An activist group on Tuesday published a database of information on suspected chemical attacks in Syria, adding to a growing collection of videos and images documenting alleged war crimes during the seven-year conflict.

The Syrian Archive, which works with human rights groups such as Amnesty International, said it has verified 861 videos covering some 212 attacks—most of them believed to have been carried out by government forces.

The material comes from 193 sources and much of it was uploaded to social media by ordinary Syrians, the group's co-founder, Hadi al-Khatib, told an audience in Berlin.

Al-Khatib, who has lived

in Germany since 2014, said the group wants to preserve sensitive material from disappearing, so that it might eventually be used to bring those responsible for war crimes to trial. But the team, which is spread across Europe and the Middle East, also wants to "add value" to the raw material, such as by determining the location where a video was taken and, most importantly, verifying that it shows what is claimed.

The Syrian Archive cooperates with the open source journalism site Bellingcat that has made a name for itself forensically examining footage from war zones.

While most of the chemical attacks documented by the group are alleged to have been carried out by forces

loyal to President Bashar Assad, including most recently in the town of Douma near Damascus, a handful have been attributed to rebel forces and the Islamic State extremist group, said Abdulrahman al-Jaloud, one of the Syrian Archive's researchers.

Al-Khatib said he and fellow activists try not to get disheartened by the fact that efforts to bring those responsible for war crimes in Syria to trial have so far been unsuccessful.

"That doesn't mean we should stop," he said. "We are looking forward to the day when we can use this material, because the reconstruction of Syria must include acknowledging, investigating and prosecuting crimes."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Suicide bombers kill 6 police, wound 8 troops in Pakistan

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—Suicide bombers struck a police vehicle and a security checkpoint in separate attacks Tuesday in the Pakistani city of Quetta, killing six police and wounding eight paramilitary troops, officials said. A suicide bomber on a motorcycle rammed into a police vehicle on an airport road, killing the six police and wounding seven others, said Abdur Razaq Cheema, the Quetta police chief. Separately, a military statement said two suicide bombers targeted a checkpoint outside a Frontier Corps base in the Mian Ghundi area. Cheema and the military said the paramilitary fighters killed both suicide bombers. But Mohammad Aslam, another police officer, said eight troops were hospitalized, indicating that one or both attackers detonated his explosives vest. Hizbul Ahrar, an offshoot of the Pakistani Taliban, claimed both attacks. Islamic extremists regularly target security forces and minority Shiites in Quetta and the surrounding province. "We are in a warlike situation," Cheema said at the scene of the attack on the po-

Focus

A joyful reunion with birth parents leads to incest, murder

By DAVE COLLINS and
DENISE LAVOIE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DOVER, N.Y. (AP)—What started out as a joyful reunion of a young woman with her birth parents soon turned sour, then shocking, and finally deadly.

A young woman named Katie married her birth father, had a baby with him and, after she decided to leave him, lost her life to him along with that of their child and her adoptive father. All three were laid to rest this weekend in upstate New York.

"We're all still in shock," said Shirley Mann, a neighbor of Katie's adoptive parents in Dover. "It's crazy. I don't know what else to say. It's horrible."

Katie, whose last name was Fusco at the time, had no idea before she moved in with Steven Pladl and his wife in August 2016 that he had an explosive temper, a history of abusive behavior and owned at least four guns.

A VERY NORMAL LIFE

In 1995, Steven Pladl was 20 when he met a 15-year-old girl named Alyssa on the internet. She soon became pregnant and gave birth to a girl they named Denise.

Alyssa Pladl told The Associated Press in an interview last week that they put the girl up for adoption when she was 8 months old. They were young and poor, she said, but she also believed Steven Pladl physically abused the baby. In her interview, she did not elaborate.

"It was so hard to give her up," Alyssa said, "but I had to because I wanted her to live and be happy."

For most of what was to be her short life, she was. Tony Fusco and his wife, Kelly, adopted the girl they renamed Katie and raised her with their biological daughter in Dover, about 80 miles north of New York City.

"They had a very, very normal life," said Cary Gould, Kelly Fusco's brother. "My nickname for Katie was Pac-Man. She was always eating. She loved animals. She was a vegetarian."

Katie was an aspiring artist known at Dover High School for drawing comic strips. She planned to attend college and pursue a career in digital advertising.

"A pen and something to draw on became a safe place for me," she wrote in a blog post. "Ink became my weapon against rules and regulations. ... To be short; for me, a life without art is no life at all."

After turning 18 in January 2016, Katie, who Gould said had been told she was adopted, found her birth parents and messaged them. The Pladls



This June 2016 image provided by Alyssa Pladl, shows Katie Pladl and her father Steven Pladl in Richmond, Va.



In this Thursday, April 19, 2018 photo, Alyssa Pladl, holds a photo of her daughter, Katie, when she was an infant at a park in Richmond, Va.

were happy to reunite with her.

Instead of going to college in August 2016, Katie moved in with the Pladls in Henrico County, Virginia, that month. Tony and Kelly Fusco were apprehensive, Gould said, but they thought Katie was old enough to make her own decisions and supported her.

All was not well in the Pladl home. Steven and Alyssa had already decided to separate and were sleeping in separate rooms. Alyssa Pladl said she had suffered emotional and verbal abuse by her husband for years.

"I was always on eggshells, whatever his mood was, everybody knew, and that mood was often not happy, a lot of yelling, a lot of things

smashed in the house, in front of our kids," she said.

Alyssa Pladl told Katie privately that Steven Pladl had abused her as a baby and that a major reason for the adoption was her own safety.

Katie, according to Alyssa, didn't appear to be concerned.

'WE'RE IN LOVE'

Steven Pladl's behavior changed after he met Katie, Alyssa Pladl said. He began wearing skinny jeans and form-fitting shirts. He shaved his beard and let his hair grow long.

INCEST CHARGES

On July 20, 2017, two months after his divorce from Alyssa was finalized and amid the police investigation, Steven Pladl married Katie in Parkton, Maryland. They lied on their application, saying they were unrelated, according to records.

Katie's adoptive parents posed for a photo on the wedding day along with Steven, Katie and Steven's mother. Katie wears a short black dress.

Tony and Kelly Fusco thought there was nothing they could do and had decided it was best to support Katie, Gould said.

Katie gave birth to Bennett on Sept. 1. She and Steven moved to a house on a cul-de-sac in Knightdale, North Carolina, just east of Raleigh, but wedded bliss did not last long. They were arrested on incest charges in January. A judge ordered them to not contact each other, and Steven Pladl's mother has custody.

Steven Pladl's lawyer, Rick Friedman II, said there was never an allegation that Steven Pladl pressured Katie into a relationship.

"This case is an 18-year-old girl who shows up at the doorstep of a 40-year-old man who's going through difficult times with his wife," Friedman said. "They have a bond because they're biologically related, but they never knew each other before they had a sexual relationship. He was head over heels in love with her, so much so that that outweighed the issue of them being biologically related."

After the arrests, Katie moved back with Tony and Kelly Fusco, who declined to comment for this article. Every Tuesday and Thursday, she would travel to her adoptive grandmother's home in Waterbury, Connecticut, Gould said.

On April 12, a Thursday, Katie and Tony Fusco left the Dover home for Waterbury. In a minivan nearby, Steven Pladl watched them leave, surveillance video shows.

Minutes later in nearby New Milford, witnesses reported someone opening fire. Katie and Tony Fusco, 56, were fatally shot. Steven Pladl was later found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot back in Dover.

Shortly after the New Milford shooting, Steven Pladl's mother called 911 to report her son had told her he killed the baby, Katie and her adoptive father.

"I can't even believe this is happening," Steven's mother told authorities, according to a 911 call transcript from which her name was redacted. Her son, she said, was upset because Katie, by then just 20, had broken up with him.

Police found the baby dead and alone in Katie and Steven's home.

Alyssa Pladl struggles to make sense of it all.

"I'm grieving. I'm sad. I'm upset," she said. "But I also want to have something good come out of this. If it's to get truth out there, to open people's eyes to incest."

About six weeks after Katie moved in, Steven Pladl one night slept on the floor in her room.

It immediately concerned Alyssa. After he did it again the next night, she confronted him. He said it was none of her business and stormed out of the house with Katie.

Alyssa Pladl finally moved out in November 2016, and she shared custody of the two children with Steven Pladl.

In May 2017, she learned from her 11-year-old daughter's journal of the incestuous relationship and Katie's pregnancy. Her daughter wrote that she and her sister were told by Steven Pladl to refer to Katie as their stepmother.

"I started to become hysterical, and I called him," she said. "I said, 'Is Katie pregnant with your baby?' He just said, 'I thought you knew. We're in love.'"

"I started screaming," she said. "I was just cursing him out: 'How could you? You're sick. She's a child.'"

Then she called the police.

Environment

Drought returns to huge swaths of US, fueling fears of a thirsty future

By DAVID MONTGOMERY
STATELINE.ORG

AUSTIN, Texas—Less than eight months after Hurricane Harvey pelted the Texas Gulf Coast with torrential rainfall, drought has returned to Texas and other parts of the West, Southwest and Southeast, rekindling old worries for residents who dealt with earlier waves of dry spells and once again forcing state governments to reckon with how to keep the water flowing.

Nearly a third of the continental United States was in drought as of April 10, more than three times the coverage of a year ago. And the specter of a drought-ridden summer has focused renewed urgency on state and local conservation efforts, some of which would fundamentally alter Americans' behavior in how they use water.

In California, for example, officials are considering rules to permanently ban water-wasting actions such as hosing off sidewalks and driveways, washing a vehicle with a hose that doesn't have a shut-off valve, and irrigating ornamental turf on public street medians. The regulations, awaiting a final decision by the California State Water Resources Control Board, were in force as temporary emergency measures during part of a devastating five-year drought but were lifted in 2017 after the drought subsided.

Water restrictions, either forced or voluntary, are nothing new to states and communities where battling drought is often a part of life. In Amarillo, Texas, the city's water department stresses conservation with the message "every drop counts," and urges customers to do "at least one thing a day to save water." A similar mantra — "squeeze every drop" — is part of the water-saving culture in Oklahoma City, where officials enforce mandatory lawn-watering restrictions and impose higher rates for excessive water use.

Years of studies by government and environmental groups have warned that future demand for water is threatening to outstrip availability, particularly in the drought-plagued West and Southwest, unless policymakers take steps to reverse those trends.

"More and more cities around the world are running into limits on how much water they have available to meet their needs," said Peter Gleick, co-founder of the Oakland-based Pacific Insti-



A "Drought Help" sign is hung at the PACC Water Resource Center, where Porterville, Calif., residents can either pick up bottled water for free or pump water into large multi-gallon totes to bring home, on April 19, 2016.

tute and an expert on water and climate issues.

To understand the potential dangers, U.S. officials might look halfway around the world, to parched Cape Town, South Africa, where residents this year faced a crisis that seems straight from science fiction. After three years of drought, the city of 4 million spent months united in a struggle to fend off Day Zero, when Cape Town was projected to become the world's first major urban center to run out of water.

Residents skimped on dishwashing and laundry, took minishowers, washed their hands with sanitizer, flushed the toilet with leftover shower water, and made numerous other sacrifices to daily routines. The objective: to cut individual water consumption to 50 liters a day, or 13.2 gallons, far below the U.S. average of 80 to 100 gallons. Hundreds queued up for daily water rations as the city deployed law enforcement officers — widely dubbed "the world's first water police" — to enforce restrictions.

The day of reckoning was originally expected to fall in mid-April, but was postponed to May and then to June.

The draconian conservation campaign had enabled Cape Town to proclaim at least partial success in March when it pushed back Day Zero to sometime in 2019. But the executive deputy mayor, Ian Neilson, said the city is still in crisis mode until it completely replenishes its water supplies.

The picture of a coastal

metropolis going without water once seemed inconceivable. But as a waterless Cape Town has become a potential reality, its story has sparked new concerns over the growing scarcity of the planet's most basic resource.

U.S. government and environmental experts generally agree that no major city is in imminent danger of the kind of scenario confronting Cape Town. But residents in some small communities have struggled, and at the same time, U.S. experts worry that protracted global warming, worsening droughts, vanishing groundwater and growing populations will erode future supplies and make Americans increasingly vulnerable throughout the 21st century.

One critical water resource threatened by shortages is the Colorado River System, which includes parts of seven states and provides water for up to 40 million people. In the absence of "timely action to ensure sustainability," the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation said in a 2012 assessment of the river basin, "there exists a strong potential for significant imbalances between water supply and demand in coming decades."

Lake Mead, a reservoir sprawling 120 miles behind the Hoover Dam in Nevada, is less than half full after years of drought. The reservoir, which is part of the Colorado River System, serves nearly 25 million people in Nevada, Arizona and California.

Burgeoning population

growth is also straining water resources. The Texas Water Development Board has authorized \$6.2 billion in financing for 48 municipal and regional projects after state water planners warned that the population of the second-most-populous state would grow by 70 percent over the next 50 years. Available water supplies were projected to fall by 11 percent during that same period without new investment.

The Environmental Protection Agency, in a January 2017 snapshot of the impact of climate change, predicted that the Southern Plains will face more "extreme heat" in the future, saying that the number of days of 100 degrees or hotter will quadruple by 2050.

"Increasing temperatures and more frequent and severe droughts," the EPA said, "are expected to heighten competition for water resources for use in cities, agriculture and energy production."

Adding to America's water insecurity is a decadeslong decline in groundwater resources, which supply half of the nation's residents and nearly all of its rural population, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Sustained groundwater pumping has steadily taken its toll on aquifers throughout the country, lowering groundwater levels by hundreds of feet in some places. Water levels in the High Plains aquifer system, which underlies parts of eight states, have dropped by

more than 100 feet in places, largely as a result of extensive irrigation, according to the USGS.

"As more wells and deeper wells have been drilled to access groundwater, it exacerbates the groundwater level decline and there is often no way to get that back," said Breton Bruce, a scientist with USGS in Denver. "Basically, we are pumping groundwater faster than it recharges."

Large sections of the United States are all too familiar with drought and its devastating impact on both surface and groundwater. Over the past decade, Texas and California endured — and are still recovering from — record multiyear droughts that plunged lake levels, killed millions of trees, and cost billions of dollars in lost crops and livestock. Georgia went through four droughts from 1998 to 2016. Arizona has been confronting drought throughout the 21st century.

Two small communities, East Porterville in California and Spicewood Beach in Texas, drew national attention during their states' droughts after their wells ran dry and outsiders came to the rescue with water deliveries. As many as 30 other Texas communities came close to running out of water during the drought, according to press reports.

"Things were grim. I didn't get water for 20 months," recalls Jim Burr, a peace justice and 33-year resident of Terlingua, a small community of about 800 people in the

remote Big Bend region of Texas. After his 16-foot-deep well ran dry during the height of the last drought, Burr was forced to dig another that extended 45 feet deep.

The latest wave of droughts has descended on more than a dozen states across the country. The largest band stretches across the Southwest and includes parts of southern California, Utah, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Kansas and the panhandles of Texas and Oklahoma. Pockets of drought are also in the Northern Plains, including parts of Montana and the Dakotas, and the southeastern states of Georgia and South Carolina.

Brian A. Fuchs, associate geoscientist and climatologist at the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said the Southwestern drought that started in October is "the most intense, significant drought area that we have going on right now." The ultimate impact, he said, depends on how long it lasts. For now, he added, "the jury is still out."

"It's one of those situations where time is definitely going to tell," he said. "If we see conditions continue to worsen over the next six months without any improvement, the situation is going to be a lot more significant than where we're at right now."

Meanwhile in Cape Town, Executive Deputy Mayor Neilson said the race against Day Zero has fundamentally redefined the city's water strategies. Officials there, too, want to find alternatives.

The city, which doesn't have a reliable source of groundwater, draws its supplies almost exclusively from surface water in its six major reservoirs. Neilson said officials have learned that they'll need to diversify their water supply to other sources: groundwater where possible, along with water re-use and desalination.

And what about Day Zero? Neilson said the city is placing its hopes on good fortunes from the upcoming rainy season as well as quick steps such as building temporary desalination plants, which would eventually be followed by permanent plants.

City officials will then reassess toward the end of the year, he said.

"You start off from having years of luxury and having plentiful water," he said. "You have certain behaviors that you develop, and you then have to teach yourself to do things differently."

Life & Style

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP FILM WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Marvel Studios President Kevin Feige talks about his job like a fan who’s just lucky to be there.

To hear his genuine enthusiasm about the movies, the actors, the audience and the stories almost belies the fact that he is essentially the architect of and driving force behind Hollywood’s most valuable brand that has in just over 10 years netted over \$14.8 billion in worldwide grosses (according to comScore) and become the envy of every studio executive in town.

He’s a mogul with a fan-boy’s verve who has helped to change the very fabric of the entertainment industry.

Ten years ago, many moviegoers didn’t know who Iron Man was, and those who did thought of him as a minor comic book character. On Thursday, Marvel Studios’ 19th film, “Avengers: Infinity War,” an epic mashup of characters once considered to be part of the “superhero B-list,” from Iron Man to Star Lord, opens in theaters worldwide. It is cruising for a record-breaking debut that could surpass “Star Wars: The Force Awakens” as the biggest opening ever.

The scope of the Marvel effect is somewhat difficult to pin down, especially with a force as formidable as The Walt

Disney Co. behind it. (Disney acquired Marvel Entertainment for \$4 billion in 2009.)

It’s revitalized careers (Robert Downey Jr.), minted movie stars (Chris Hemsworth, Chris Evans and Chris Pratt, to name a few), and become an outpost for Oscar-winners too (like Robert Redford, Gwyneth Paltrow, Anthony Hopkins, Natalie Portman, Jeff Bridges, Michael Douglas and Cate Blanchett).

And beyond that, every few months the studio seems to be breaking new ground, whether it’s as small as a change in tone, like “Thor: Ragnarok,” or as big as producing a down-right cultural phenomenon, such as “Black Panther,” now the third highest-grossing domestic film of all time.

“We dream big at Marvel Studios. We have very lofty aspirations at Marvel Studios. For those dreams to be surpassed is saying something,” Feige, 44, said of “Black Panther’s” success.

And it shows no sign of slowing down, or running out of story. They have 70 years of comic book source material to draw on, after all.

“There are still things that are key elements to a lot of our characters in their comic incarnations that we haven’t even done yet for characters who have had three or four movies,” Feige said.

“It is an amazing wealth of

creative material to pull from.”

Feige is amused when reporters try to predict Marvel’s next move, or make big conclusions based on what’s just happened. Under Feige, Marvel is not looking in the rear-view mirror.

When “Thor: Ragnarok” came out, he remembers reading articles declaring that, “Marvel is committing to a surrealist, silly tone” and just laughed.

“I thought, ‘We have ‘Black Panther’ coming out in three months! They don’t even know what’s coming,’” Feige said. “We’re always thinking ahead. Just when people think they can pin us down, we go somewhere else and that’s going to happen again after ‘Infinity War’ in the build-up to the next Avengers film. And we had meetings earlier today about 2024 and 2025.”

Misunderstanding Feige’s vision is almost a tradition at this point, going back to Comic-Con in 2006 where he revealed his plans for the first few films —Iron Man, Ant-Man and The Incredible Hulk—and all anyone wrote about is how Marvel Studios didn’t have the rights to Spider-Man (Sony does), the X-Men or the Fantastic Four (those reside at 20th Century Fox).

Now, few would argue that Iron Man, Captain America,

Thor, Black Panther, the Guardians of the Galaxy and even Doctor Strange and Ant-Man aren’t veritable A-listers on their own, and even more powerful together, making up what is perhaps Marvel’s greatest innovation—the Marvel Cinematic Universe. This idea of an interconnected, ever-expanding “universe” of characters and films is something that many have since tried to copy to varying degrees of success. It seems audiences don’t begrudge Marvel for creating the concept, but are somewhat more skeptical of those trying to capitalize on it.

“(Marvel’s) approach doesn’t seem nearly as cynical as when you see another studio trying to do it with, say, Ghostbusters or DC,” said Wall Street Journal reporter Ben Fritz, who delves into Marvel’s history in the book “The Big Picture: The Fight for the Future of Movies.” “People are like, ‘Oh I know what you’re doing, you’re trying to copy Marvel.’ But Marvel did it first and Marvel has still done it best.”

“Sequel fatigue” doesn’t even seem to apply to Marvel films anymore.

“I think you can look at Marvel as a grand narrative experiment,” said ‘Infinity War’ co-director Joe Russo. “Never before in films have we seen this many franchises com-

bined over this many years into one giant mosaic. Two-hour, two-dimensional storytelling has dominated American culture for 100 years and now we’re consuming content with such extreme speed that we need new forms of storytelling. I think what Marvel is doing is a new form of storytelling.”

“Infinity War” co-screenwriter Stephen McFeely, who also co-wrote the three Captain America films, said Feige should get the film academy’s Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award for his impact on the industry.

“He’s clearly changed the way Hollywood works, or at least the top box office end of it,” McFeely said. “It’s in part because Kevin has a really good mind for story—he’s ambitious—but he’s not so ambitious that he’s not going to do the right thing for the movie in front of his face.”

While navel-gazing isn’t Feige’s favorite activity, the 10-year anniversary of “Iron Man” hitting theaters has provided an excuse to reflect a bit. He still remembers the early days, when they had everything to prove and felt grateful for the chance to produce films on their own. While the grand plans and concurrent filmmaking have gotten more complex over the years and “the days have gotten longer,” Feige said the fundamental processes for how they make films goes back to the beginning.

“It was in the cutting rooms of

‘Iron Man 1’ that in a lot of ways the Marvel Studios process was born—of just keep trying things and keep turning things over and don’t rest on your laurels and just because something is working doesn’t mean it can’t work better,” Feige said.

Audiences won’t have to wait too long for another Avengers, either. The fourth Avengers film, also directed by Joe and Anthony Russo and written by McFeely and Christopher Markus is just around the corner, set for a May 2019 release. It’s a continuation of the story that begins in “Infinity War,” where a still-fractured Avengers face Thanos (Josh Brolin). Little is being revealed beyond that. The film premiered Monday night in Los Angeles and is said to be full of surprises.

“We make movies we believe in. We make movies that we think will be entertaining to ourselves and think about ourselves as the first audience members for any movie we make. Any idea that comes up in a room: Would we be entertained by this? Would we be moved by this? Would we be surprised by this?” Feige said.

“It goes back to the movies I loved growing up. I always loved sequels. I never found myself being cynical or dismissive of sequels. If they were bad, I was disappointed. But I always loved the promise of seeing the further storylines or further adventures of characters I’d grown to love. That’s all we’re doing.”



This image released by Disney shows Chadwick Boseman, center, in a scene from Marvel Studios’ “Avengers: Infinity War.”

AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Marvel Studios has built a movie empire that has not only proved crowd-pleasing, but has also racked up box-office profits to the tune of nearly \$15 billion in the 10 years since “Iron Man” was released.

The 2008 film starring Robert Downey Jr. as Iron Man proved that superheroes not named Spider-Man, Superman and Batman could find massive audiences. “Avengers: Infinity War,” the 19th

A look at how Marvel Studios built a box-office juggernaut

film in the Marvel Studios universe arrives Friday, and may break box-office records in its opening weekend. The third Avengers film assembles characters and story lines developed over the years, including Captain America, Thor, the Guardians of the Galaxy and this year’s sensation, the Black Panther.

The following is a look at how Marvel has built its cin-

ematic version of the Hulk, with the film’s title, release date, domestic gross and total worldwide box office, as compiled by comScore:

“Iron Man,” May 2008, \$318.6 million, \$582 million

“The Incredible Hulk,” June 2008, \$134.8 million, \$263.3 million

“Iron Man 2,” May 2010, \$312.4 million, \$623.7 million

“Thor,” May 2010, \$181

million, \$448.7 million

“Captain America: The First Avenger,” July 2011, \$176.7 million, \$371 million

“Marvel’s The Avengers,” May 2012, \$623.4 million, \$1.52 billion

“Iron Man 3,” May 2013, \$409 million, \$1.2 billion

“Thor: The Dark World,” November 2013, \$206.4 million, \$645 million

“Captain America: The

Winter Soldier,” April 2014, \$260 million, \$714.3 million

“Guardians of the Galaxy,” August 2014, \$333.2 million, \$773.3 million

“Avengers: Age of Ultron,” May 2015, \$459 million, \$1.4 billion

“Ant-Man,” July 2015, \$180.2 million, \$519.3 million

“Captain America: Civil War,” May 2016, \$408.1 mil-

lion, \$1.15 billion

“Doctor Strange,” May 2016, \$232.6 million, \$677.6 million

“Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2,” May 2017, \$390 million, \$863.6 million

“Spider-Man: Homecoming,” July 2017, \$334.2 million, \$880.2 million

“Thor: Ragnarok,” November 2017, \$314 million, \$852.7 million

“Black Panther,” February 2018, \$681.4 million, \$1.4 billion

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS**Prince Harry, Meghan Markle select gospel group for wedding**

LONDON (AP)—Prince Harry and Meghan Markle are striking a different note with the music for their upcoming wedding, mixing gospel with choral works as the soundtrack for what they pledge will be a joyful occasion. Kensington Palace said Tuesday that Harry and his American fiancée “have taken a great deal of interest and care” in selecting the wedding music. The palace says there will be performances by the St George’s Chapel choir and Karen Gibson and The Kingdom Choir, a gospel group from southeast England. The performers include 19-year-old cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason, who says he was “bowled over” when Markle called to ask him to play during the ceremony. The couple has revealed details of their May 19 upcoming wedding over several weeks, with more to come.

Ibrahim Nasrallah wins Arabic book prize for dystopian novel

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Jordanian-Palestinian writer Ibrahim Nasrallah has won the International Prize for Arabic Fiction with a novel about humanity’s capacity for savagery. “The Second War of the Dog” was named winner at a ceremony Tuesday in the Emirates capital, Abu Dhabi. Set in a dystopian future society, the book centers on an opponent of the regime who descends into brutal nihilism. The author has called it “a warning of what we could become in the future.” Ibrahim Al Saafin, who chaired the judging panel, said the book used “humor and insight” to expose society’s tendency toward brutality. Nasrallah’s book was chosen

from among 124 entries from 14 countries for the award, which is affiliated with Britain’s prestigious Man Booker Prize. He wins \$50,000 and funding for an English translation of his novel.

Masseuse accuses Marvel’s Stan Lee of fondling himself

CHICAGO (AP)—A Chicago masseuse is suing Marvel Comic’s Stan Lee, accusing him of inappropriate behavior during two massages in 2017. Maria Carballo filed the lawsuit Monday seeking more than \$50,000 in punitive damages and attorney fees from the 95-year-old writer and artist. The Chicago Tribune reports that Lee’s attorney, Jonathan Freund, called the lawsuit “a shakedown” and says Lee denies the allegations. Carballo also filed a complaint with Chicago police, who are investigating. According to the complaint, Lee fondled himself during the first massage and moaned so much during the second that Carballo stopped the treatment. Lee stood up and angrily demanded Carballo keep massaging him. The complaint also says Carballo was massaging Lee with her feet when he grabbed her foot and touched it to his genitals.

Disney shows how Han Solo and Lando meet at CinemaCon

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The Walt Disney Studios has previewed a scene from the Star Wars spinoff “Solo” featuring the card game where Han Solo and Lando Calrissian meet at CinemaCon Tuesday in Las Vegas. The scene cuts off right as the two space scoundrels decide to bet their ships. The studio also unveiled early footage from its live-action adaption of “Dumbo” and

“Aladdin,” starring Will Smith as the Genie, and showed the first scene from “The Incredibles 2,” which picks up right where the first left off in 2004. Both “Solo: A Star Wars” story and “The Incredibles 2” hit theaters this summer. Unlike most studio presentations at the annual theater owner convention, Disney doesn’t generally bring out the stars of its films. Instead it lets the footage and behind-the-scenes reels do the selling.

Melania Trump, Brigitte Macron visit National Gallery of Art

WASHINGTON (AP)—Melania Trump and Brigitte Macron bid a brief adieu to the White House on Tuesday for a visit with the works of Paul Cezanne at the National Gallery of Art. The first ladies of the United States and France toured an exhibit of about 60 portraits by the French post-Impressionist painter. They paused near a portrait of Cezanne’s father reading a newspaper in a chair. Mary Morton, the museum’s curator of French paintings, explained that the painter had a difficult relationship with his father, who was a banker and wanted his son to become a lawyer. The first ladies each wore white suits and stilettos. Mrs. Trump added a wide-brimmed white hat to her ensemble. At least in front of the cameras, Mrs. Macron did much of the chatting with the curators.

Comey book sells more than 600,000 copies in first week

NEW YORK (AP)—James Comey’s “A Higher Loyalty” had a very big opening week. Flatiron Books announced Tuesday that sales topped 600,000 copies, a number that includes print, audio and

e-books. The former FBI director’s memoir has been one of the year’s most anticipated releases and includes his accounts of investigating Hillary Clinton’s emails and of his awkward encounters with President Donald Trump. Reviews have been mostly favorable, with The New York Times calling the book “impassioned” and “absorbing.” And Trump, who has showed a knack for helping publications he despises, tweeted that Comey was an “untruthful slime ball.” Comey, fired by Trump a year ago, has likened the president to a crime boss who values personal loyalty over service to the country. Published April 17, “A Higher Loyalty” is the hottest political book since Michael Wolff’s million-selling “Fire and Fury,” which came out in January. Its first week sales, which include pre-orders, well exceed those of “Fire and Fury.” But the two books, both published by imprints of Macmillan, had very different launches.

Madonna loses battle to prevent auction of Tupac letter

NEW YORK (AP)—Pop star Madonna has lost her battle to prevent an auction of her personal items, including a love letter from her ex-boyfriend, the late rapper Tupac Shakur, a pair of worn panties and a hairbrush containing her hair. Last year, a judge ordered Gotta Have It! Collectibles to pull the items from its impending rock ‘n’ roll-themed auction after the Material Girl sought an emergency court order. In a decision revealed Monday, the judge dismissed the case on grounds the statute of limitations to recover the items had passed. The auction house told The New York Times it

had done due diligence on the items and was confident Madonna had no claim. The company says the auction will be in July. Starting bid for the Tupac letter is \$100,000.

‘A Star is Born’ steals show in starry Warner Bros. slate

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Warner Bros. Pictures brought out the big names for its CinemaCon presentation Tuesday, from stars like Sandra Bullock to movies like “Wonder Woman 2,” but it was Bradley Cooper’s “A Star is Born” that stole the show. Cooper showed the emotional first trailer for the film to conference attendees in Las Vegas to some hearty, and rare, applause from the crowd of theater owners and exhibitors. It’s the directorial debut for Cooper, who also stars in the film alongside Lady Gaga, who plays the aspiring singer. This marks the third remake of “A Star is Born,” which has classic versions with Judy Garland and Barbra Streisand in the role of the ingénue Lady Gaga is playing. “It’s a big swing this movie, I totally get that,” Cooper said. “But you can’t control what moves you. And I always wanted to tell a love story.” He added that Lady Gaga is “kind of a revelation in this movie.”

Jury to deliberate after Cosby painted as predator, victim

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP)—Jurors at Bill Cosby’s sexual assault retrial are poised to start deliberating after a marathon day of closing arguments that portrayed the comedian both as a calculating predator who’s finally being brought to justice and the victim of a multimillion-dollar frame-up by a “pathological liar.” The seven men and five women se-

questered at a suburban Philadelphia hotel will start weighing charges on Wednesday in the first big celebrity trial of the #MeToo era. They begged off a late Tuesday start, saying they were exhausted from 5½ hours of arguments. The prosecution and defense gave them lots to think about after a two-week trial pitting Cosby, the 80-year-old comedian once revered as “America’s Dad,” against Andrea Constand, a former Temple University sports administrator who testified that he knocked her out with three pills he called “your friends” and molested her at his suburban Philadelphia mansion in January 2004.

Miranda, “Game of Thrones” #MeToo figure take Webby Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lin-Manuel Miranda, “Game of Thrones” and a key figure in the #MeToo movement are among the winners of this year’s Webby Awards. Miranda won the Webby for public service and social activism for his work raising money for charities assisting Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. Susan Fowler, the former Uber employee whose harassment revelations helped lead to the ouster of the company’s CEO and bolstered the #MeToo movement, was named Webby’s person of the year. The awards, which honor internet excellence, were announced Tuesday and will be presented May 14 at a New York ceremony hosted by comedian Amber Ruffin. Winners from music include Jay-Z, Katy Perry and Lada Gaga. “Game of Thrones” won for best overall online presence, and the video game phenomenon Fortnite won for best multiplayer competitive game.

Visiting is a one-way street for sisters refusing to travel

DEAR ABBY: I have three sisters who won’t come to visit me. I am older and their only brother. We are all in our 50s. We all get along great and have no issues.

Seven years ago, I moved away from our hometown in Pennsylvania and bought houses in vacation towns in Colorado and Arizona. I would never see my sisters if I didn’t make the trip back home. The problem is, I have an injury that makes traveling very difficult.

Over the last seven years, I have gone back twice. I have offered to pay gas or airfare for them if they’ll come visit me, but they always refuse. I have now given up and quit offering.

They are able to travel to see each other on occasion, but not me. I know they enjoy my company as we go jeeping and kayaking, etc. Their kids love me. It’s a shame I may never see them again. What should I do?

BAFFLED BROTHER IN PHOENIX

DEAR BROTHER: I agree it’s a shame their reluctance to come to you may mean that you won’t see them again. I think the time has come to ask your sisters to level with you about why they manage to visit one another, but won’t do the same for you. When you do, “remind” them that although you love them, your health no longer permits you

to do all the traveling.

You can’t force them to make the effort, and if they are unwilling after that, you may have to accept that this is the way things are and this is how they will remain.

DEAR ABBY: My elderly parents are opposites. Dad is a self-absorbed narcissist with no moral compass. Mom is a Christian woman who is loved by many. When they die, Mom will be missed. When Dad goes, we will mostly feel relief.

Would it be acceptable to have a large, lovely funeral for Mom, giving others the chance to pay their final respects, but for Dad, just a small family service?

PLANNING AHEAD

DEAR PLANNING: Not only would it be acceptable, it would also be practical since few people pay respects to someone who isn’t worthy of respect.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to my husband for 57 years. He has been a good provider and helps me often with errands. However, he has one serious failing. He can’t keep a secret.

If I tell him something personal and ask him to keep it private, he invariably tells his friends during coffee dates or phone calls. Can you give me any insight about why he does this? I

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

have decided that from now on I’ll keep anything I don’t want broadcast to myself.

BLABBERMOUTH’S WIFE

DEAR WIFE: Not knowing your husband, I can’t guess why he would betray your confidence. But I do think you have arrived at a wise solution to your problem. He can’t shoot off his mouth if he doesn’t have the ammunition.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



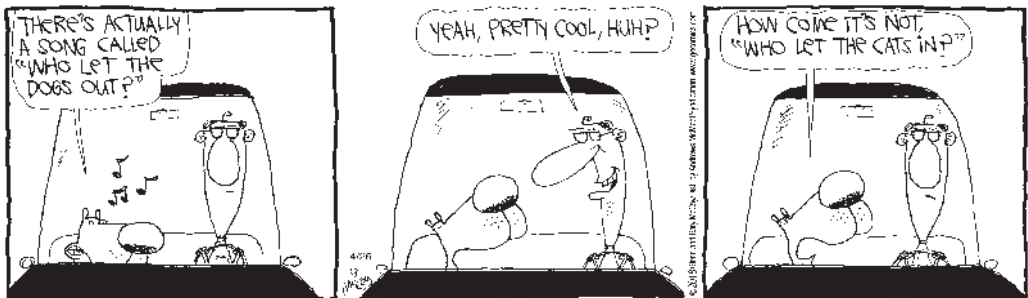
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Comic Jay 5 Antlered animal 8 "Shoo!" 12 Matty of baseball 13 Six, in Sicily 14 Docile 15 Penny 16 Male cat 17 Europe's neighbor 18 Change gradually 20 Rowboat needs 22 Like some Jersey Shore properties 26 Regarding 29 Guest's bed 30 Mangy mutt 31 Diner employee 32 — Moines 33 Tom Joad, for one 34 Capote nickname

DOWN 1 Lingerie trim 2 Hgt. 3 Taboo 4 Forecast 5 Lauder of cosmetics 6 Zodiac feline 7 Geisha's garments 8 Fab Four drummer 9 Long clerical vest-ments 10 "Blue?" 11 Afternoon social precursor 19 TiVo 21 Astern 23 Bitter 24 Night, in Paris 25 "— chic!" 26 Per-forms 27 Type of lines in a sonnet 28 Number of lines in a sonnet 32 Visionary 33 Bay Area city 35 Heart chart (Abbr.) 36 TV type 38 Hawk-eye 39 Super-market section 42 Com-poser Stravin-sky 43 Astro-nauts' org. 44 Earl — tea 45 Big shot 46 White House nickname 48 PC key

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-26

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jemima Kirke, 33; Channing Tatum, 38; Tom Welling, 41; Kevin James, 53.

Happy Birthday: Concentrate on how you earn your living and handle cash. Have a plan in place to reach your goals. Absorb information people offer and use it to your best ability. Taking on more responsibility will help you prove your worth and lead to interesting opportunities. An unusual partnership will give you greater insight into new possibilities. Your numbers are 6, 10, 19, 25, 31, 37, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Refuse to let changes made by others influence you. Stick to your own script and trust in your judgment when it comes to your work and your financial future. Use your intelligence, not brawn, to get what you want. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Getting along with your peers will make a difference. Whether at school, at work or during everyday activities, knowing how to handle others will determine how much help you receive as well as how much you accomplish. Physical activity will improve your overall health. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Gather information, ask questions and make a point to do thorough research before making a move. Educational pursuits and talking to experts will help clear up any uncertainty that's holding you back. Someone you love will not be honest with you. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Make alterations that will lift your spirits and add to your comfort and convenience. Ex-

plore partnerships you feel have potential; good things will develop. A chance to make a unique change to your living arrangements or lifestyle looks promising. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A formula that has worked for you in the past can work again. Whether dealing with friends, colleagues or relatives, be willing to listen. An open forum will help you gather information that will encourage a solution that suits the majority. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Look for the things you need to follow through with your plans. Prioritize shopping for items that will give you added details and help you be competitive. Show more discipline when dealing with health issues. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Put your energy into self-improvement projects. Feeling good about the way you look or what you know will give you the confidence to make a move that will lead to a better standard of living. Nurture an important relationship. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can't buy love or respect; you have to earn it. Offer your time, energy and input into situations, and you'll get a better understanding of what needs to be done. Be part of the solution, not part of the problem. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Make a change to the way you look or how you present yourself. Altering your appearance or approach will be well-received and may put you in the running for an advancement. Love and romance are highlighted. ****

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A financial gain is heading your way. Don't let greed cost you. Look at whatever situation you face and make a decision based on facts and figures. Home improvements, real estate and personal investment deals look promising. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Do your own thing. Knowing you've done a great job will give you the confidence to present what you have to offer and to accept and use constructive criticism to further your objective and ensure success. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your work will speak for itself. You'll make a good impression, and an interesting opportunity will be offered. A partnership will be in your best interest, giving you the freedom to pursue what you know and do best. ***

Birthday Baby: You are energetic, practical and resourceful. You are productive and competitive.

(To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugeniast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)

SUDOKU Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

DANISH MANUFACTURERS Solution: 11 letters

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Gronkowski says he'll play for Pats in 2018



BOSTON (A)—Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski says he is returning for his ninth NFL season.

Gronkowski made the announcement in a post on Instagram Tuesday. Gronkowski said he met with coach Bill Belichick to inform him of his intention to return, adding he's "been working out, staying in shape and feel great."

Gronk previously hinted at considering retirement following New England's Super Bowl loss to the Eagles in February.

He appeared in 14 games during the 2017 season and led the team in receiving with 69 catches for 1,084 yards and eight touchdowns.

Gronkowski was knocked out of last season's AFC championship game with a concussion, but was able to return in time for the Super Bowl. He missed the Patriots' 2017 Super Bowl win over Atlanta after undergoing back surgery.

In Los Angeles, the Rams have picked up their fifth-year contract options for 2019 on running back Todd Gurley and cornerback Marcus Peters.



AP
New England Patriots' Rob Gronkowski walks off the field after the NFL Super Bowl 52 football game against the Philadelphia Eagles Sunday, Feb. 4, 2018, in Minneapolis.

The Rams announced their easiest decisions of the offseason Tuesday.

Gurley led the NFL in all-purpose yards as the league's Offensive Player of the Year last season, thriving in new

coach Sean McVay's offense. He rushed for 1,305 yards and 13 touchdowns while catching 64 passes for 788 yards and six more scores.

The Rams acquired Peters from the Chiefs in February,

and he is expected to start alongside fellow newcomer Aqib Talib. Peters earned two Pro Bowl selections and made 19 interceptions during his three seasons in Kansas City.

In Minnesota, the Vikings made a splash on the free agent market last month, with their fully guaranteed contract for quarterback Kirk Cousins and the signing of defensive

tackle Sheldon Richardson for another instant upgrade for the starting lineup.

There's another addition coming, too.

Running back Dalvin Cook, his promising rookie season cut painfully short at four games because of a torn ACL in his left knee, has passed the six-month mark in his rehabilitation and remains on track for full action when training camp begins.

He'll be a limited participant in practices this spring and minicamp, head athletic trainer Eric Sugarman said, and has impressed the team at each stage of his recovery. There's no reason why he won't be ready to play in the season opener on Sept. 9.

"Dalvin's knocked the rehab out of the park," Sugarman said. "He's done a great job. He's been here every day since the injury occurred, post-surgery."

Granderson's HR lifts Blue Jays past Red Sox



TORONTO (AP)—Curtis Granderson hit a walk-off homer in the 10th inning to give the Toronto Blue Jays a 4-3 win over Boston on Tuesday night and hand the Red Sox their season-worst third straight defeat.

Boston (17-5) still owns the best record in the majors.

Granderson's his third home run of the season came off Red Sox closer Craig Kimbrel (0-1), a towering solo blast off the facing of the third deck in right field. He went 3 for 5 with three RBI in the Blue Jays' first game since a deadly van attack in Toronto a day earlier. The victims of the attack, which killed 10 and injured 14, were honored along with first responders before the game.

Tyler Clippard (3-0) worked a scoreless 10th for the win.

Blue Jays closer Roberto Osuna was handed a 3-1 lead in the ninth but allowed the Red Sox to tie it, his first blown save in seven chances. Left fielder Granderson threw out Eduardo Nunez at the plate to prevent Boston from taking the lead.

Reds 9, Braves 7, 12 innings

In Cincinnati, Tyler Mahle lost his no-hit bid on Freddie Freeman's homer in the seventh inning, and Cincinnati

blew a big late lead before Scooter Gennett connected in the 12th.

Gennett hit his second homer of the game off left-hander Max Fried (0-1) for his first career game-ending shot.

Yankees 8, Twins 3

In New York, Didi Gregorius had another big game at Yankee Stadium with a two-run homer and three RBI, and Gary Sanchez homered twice to help CC Sabathia and New York romp past the Minnesota.

Aaron Judge hit his seventh home run as the Yankees went deep four times for the second straight night. Gleyber Torres had a pair of hits and his first RBI for New York, which extended a winning streak to four for the first time under new manager Aaron Boone.

Cubs 10, Indians 3

In Cleveland, Kyle Schwarber hit two solo home runs and Chicago defeated Cleveland in the first meeting between the teams since their classic 2016 World Series.

The Cubs won three games in Cleveland's ballpark during the 2016 Series and continued the trend against Josh Tomlin (0-3), who allowed all four homers.

Mariners 1, White Sox 0

In Chicago, Marco Gonzales

and four relievers combined on a five-hitter, Mitch Haniger singled home the only run and Seattle beat Chicago.

At 5-15, the rebuilding White Sox are off to their worst start since the 1950 season.

Diamondbacks 8, Phillies 4

In Philadelphia, Alex Avila homered among his three hits and drove in two runs, Robbie Ray struck out 11 while pitching into the fifth inning Arizona beat Philadelphia.

Daniel Descalso and Jarrod Dyson also homered for the Diamondbacks, who upped their NL-best record to 16-6.

Brewers 5, Royals 2

In Kansas City, Lorenzo Cain homered while reaching base four times in his return to Kauffman Stadium, and Milwaukee beat Kansas City.

Travis Shaw added a three-run homer for the Brewers, while Zach Davies (2-2) pitched six innings of four-hit ball. Ryan Braun had two hits, walked twice and drove in a run.

Athletics 3, Rangers 2

In Arlington, Jed Lowrie hit a tiebreaking double in the seventh inning, and Oakland tagged Texas' Cole Hamels with his fourth loss before the end of April for the first time

in the left-hander's career.

Texas slugger Adrian Beltre exited with a left hamstring strain in the eighth after pulling up at first base on what would have been a double but was instead a single for his 3,075th career hit.

Giants 4, Nationals 43

In San Francisco, Mac Williamson had to dust himself off after crashing into a low padded wall near the stands in left field while chasing a foul ball.

More frustrated than hurt, Williamson took it out on Nationals pitcher Tanner Roark a few moments later after undergoing a series of concussion tests in the dugout.

Williamson homered for the second straight night and third in five games, hitting a tiebreaking shot in the sixth inning to lead San Francisco to a victory.

Marlins 3, Dodgers 2

In Los Angeles, Cameron Maybin doubled home the go-ahead run in the ninth inning and Miami edged the Dodgers, snapping its season-high five-game skid.

Brian Anderson singled leading off the inning against Pedro Baez (1-1) and scored on Maybin's double to deep left field. Miami had lost eight of its previous nine and 11 of 13.

Tough choice: Browns mulling 4 quarterbacks with No. 1 pick

CLEVELAND (AP)—As far as Cleveland fans are concerned, only one quarterback fits all the essential criteria for the Browns to draft him with the No. 1 overall pick.

His last name? Darnold-alenrosenmayfield.

With the NFL draft quickly approaching, the team's die-hard supporters, and there have been few groups in NFL history to suffer like this one has the past two seasons, are divided over which of the top four college QBs the team should select.

There's the Sam Darnold contingent, which sees the two-year Southern Cal starter as the safest choice, the one who checks all the positive boxes. Josh Allen's supporters point to the big Wyoming QB's high-velocity arm, which could help him knife passes through those tricky home winds off Lake Erie.

Josh Rosen's backers love the UCLA star's accuracy and his cerebral game. And of course there's the Baker Mayfield army, which dismiss his 6-foot frame and believe Oklahoma's swaggering Heisman Trophy winner is the next Brett Favre.

Oh, and let's not forget the fans who feel Penn State running back Saquon Bark-

ley is worthy of going first and that the Browns can wait until No. 4 to get their quarterback.

But while there's no clear consensus between fans as the Browns prepare for a franchise-changing draft, general manager John Dorsey and his staff will have presumably reached an accord by the time Commissioner Roger Goodell is handed their card on the stage at AT&T Stadium.

If not, well, these are the bumbling Browns.

Cleveland's inability to find a franchise quarterback—they've had 28 starters since 1999—is the biggest reason for the team's sustained misery. And once again they have the chance to correct the problem after passing on Carson Wentz and Deshaun Watson in the past two drafts.

Dorsey, who as Kansas City's GM got the Chiefs turned around with some solid drafts, has been aggressive in fixing mistakes by previous Cleveland regimes. Since December, he's traded for QB Tyrod Taylor and Pro Bowl receiver Jarvis Landry, revamped the secondary and spent months scouting the top quarterbacks.

He knows what he's looking for.

76ers, Warriors march into second round



PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Joel Embiid hoisted diminutive comedian Kevin Hart not unlike the way a parent would toss up a toddler. Embiid then pulled him in for a hug as confetti rained on the court, team flags waved around them and the promise of a rowdy late-night celebration was on deck.

Hart grabbed the mic and yelled, "Let's give it up for Joel Embiid!"

Believe it, Philly.

The 76ers are rolling in the postseason—and rappers, politicians, actors and athletes are dancing along in the ride.

Embiid and Ben Simmons shined again in front of rapper Meek Mill, and the dominant duo ushered the nightmares-into-dreams Process of the

Philadelphia 76ers into the second round with a 104-91 win over the Miami Heat on Tuesday night.

The 76ers, winners of 10 games just two seasons ago, are in the second round of the Eastern Conference playoffs for the first time since 2012.

"I kind of promised the city this," Embiid said.

The Sixers won the series 4-1 and turned the Wells Fargo Center into the wildest house party in the city. Embiid had 19 points and 12 rebounds, Simmons had 14 points and 10 boards, and the entire team was energized by Mill's surprise appearance. Mill made a dramatic return hours after Pennsylvania's highest court ordered him freed while he appeals decade-old gun and drug convictions.

He was taken from prison

And now, Wade decides if this was the end

MIAMI (AP)—Dwyane Wade's first NBA game was in Philadelphia.

His last NBA game may have been there as well.

Retirement is a very—very—real option for Wade, who has been not-so-quietly saying for weeks that he isn't sure if he'll be back next season. The offseason is here now, after the Miami Heat were ousted by the 76ers on Tuesday night in Game 5 of their Eastern Conference first-round series, and the face of the franchise may have taken his jersey off for the final time.

He has not decided.

But some of his closest friends believe this could really be the end.

"I appreciate y'all concern," Wade said in Philadelphia on Tuesday night. "But we'll worry about that later."

Of course, his fans want him to come back. One prominent fan cast her vote before he even left the floor after Game 5.

"I hope this isn't the end, but my God," his wife, Gabrielle Union, wrote on Twitter.

Wade has a career most people dream of. He is a damn legend. An icon. And he's cute."

No one, not even Wade, knows how long this process will take. He's going to talk to his wife. He's going to talk to his kids. He's going to talk to the Heat, and he's going to talk to the people within his inner circle that are trusted most.

Wade isn't a starter, but it could be argued the three-time NBA champion is still Miami's best player. Wade carried the Heat to victory in Game 2 and got them on the brink of a win in Game 4. He doesn't run as fast or jump as high as the version of himself known as Flash did, but he's still capable of delivering big moments.

If Wade is done, the last visions fans will have of his career will be with him in a Heat uniform, still doing his thing. That matters to him. He isn't Michael Jordan going out in a Washington jersey, or Patrick Ewing playing his last game with Orlando, or Shaquille O'Neal limping away from his NBA finale in Boston colors.



by helicopter to Philadelphia, where he rang the ceremonial bell at the start of Game 5.

"Welcome home Meek Mill," was about all that was heard from the public address announcer as wild cheers drowned out the rest. Mill sat courtside next to Hart and Sixers co-owner Michael Rubin.

Before the game, Mill visited privately with the Sixers in their locker room.

"For him to come to this type of game ... I was just happy," Embiid said.

Hart talked trash, wandered onto the edge of the court to rile up fans and palled around with Mill as the young and

gettin' it Sixers proved they just might be the team to beat in the East.

They'll have plenty of time to rest and recover—Embiid again played in a black mask to guard a face injury—with the other Eastern Conference playoff series expected to stretch into the weekend.

They await the winner of Milwaukee-Boston. The Celtics lead the series 3-2.

In Oakland, Kevin Durant scored 25 points, Draymond Green led a smothering Golden State defense and the Warriors held off the late-charging San Antonio Spurs 99-91 Tuesday night to win Game

5 and advance to the second round of the Western Conference playoffs.

Klay Thompson had another stellar shooting performance with 24 points, and Green contributed all over with 17 points, a career-playoff high 19 rebounds and seven assists. Golden State looked dominant until the fourth quarter even without injured two-time MVP Stephen Curry -- and he could be back soon from a left knee injury.

LaMarcus Aldridge converted a three-point play with 1:31 left that pulled the Spurs within 93-89, and then a pair of free throws at 57.2 to make it a two-point game. Green re-

Philadelphia 76ers' Ben Simmons, left, dunks over Miami Heat's Hassan Whiteside, right, during the first half in Game 5 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series, Tuesday, April 24, 2018, in Philadelphia. The 76ers won, 104-91.

sponded with a long jumper at the top of the key then two free throws with 9.1 seconds remaining.

The Warriors will face New Orleans in the West semifinals beginning this weekend at Oracle Arena, having smoothly eliminated the Spurs aside from a brief Game 4 blip Sunday at San Antonio. New Orleans, coached by former Golden State top assistant Alvin Gentry, swept Portland in the first round.

Celtics 92, Bucks 87

In Boston, Al Horford has been the Celtics' quiet leader this postseason, and Marcus Smart might be the kindling the Celtics was missing in back-to-back losses in Milwaukee.

The duo was reunited for Game 5, and together, they helped put the Celtics on the verge of closing out their first-round series.

Horford had 22 points and 14 rebounds, Smart made an impact in his first game since mid-March and Boston beat the Bucks for a 3-2 lead.

Smart came off the bench and had nine points, five rebounds, four assists and three blocks in his first action since right thumb surgery. He played 25 minutes wearing a protective splint and had a key assist to Horford late from the bottom of a scrum beneath three Milwaukee players.

"I just tried to make sure I got him the ball and it was going to take everything I had," Smart said. "They weren't taking it from me."

Terry Rozier added 16 points and five assists for Boston. The home team has won all five games in the first-round series, and Game 6 is Thursday in Milwaukee.



MADRID (AP)—They are two of the biggest clubs in the world, both with enough trophies to fill a warehouse.

They are Real Madrid and Bayern Munich.

On Wednesday, the giants of European soccer will meet yet again in the Champions League semifinals.

"We will need a big performance against a strong opponent," Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane said ahead of Wednesday's first leg in Munich. "Bayern is a great club with great team spirit."

Bayern, Madrid semis meeting rich in history

It will be the seventh time they have played each other at this stage in the tournament's history, with Bayern winning four of those previous six. They have competed in the knockout stages of the Champions League 11 times, including three times in the last six seasons.

Their most recent meeting (2017 quarterfinals) went Madrid's way, thanks to Cristiano Ronaldo.

The Portugal forward scored both goals in Madrid's

2-1 win in Munich, and he then had a hat trick in the return match to give the hosts a 6-3 aggregate victory.

In the 2014 semis, even with Pep Guardiola calling the shots for Bayern, Madrid eliminated the German team 5-0 on aggregate on its way to another title.

Karim Benzema scored the winner in the 1-0 victory in Madrid. The Spanish team then won 4-0 in Munich to hand Bayern its worst European home defeat.

In the 2012 semis, coached by Jupp Heynckes, who is now back in charge at the German club, Bayern got the best of Madrid on penalties after each side recorded a 2-1 home victory.

An early goal by Franck Ribery and a late winner by Mario Gomez put Bayern ahead in the series, but Madrid rebounded with two goals by Ronaldo in the first 15 minutes of the second leg before Arjen Robben pulled one back for Bayern before halftime.

Neither team could score after regulation and Bayern eventually won the penalty shootout 3-1 as Ronaldo, Kaka and Ramos all missed their shots from the spot.

In the 2017 Last 16, Bayern eliminated Madrid on away goals after a 4-4 aggregate draw, while in the 2014 Last 16, Zinedine Zidane, the current Madrid coach, scored the decisive second-leg goal that allowed the Spanish team to advance.

The teams faced each other

in three straight Champions Leagues between 2000-02, with the winner going on to win the title each time.

Madrid won the 2000 semifinal series 3-2 on aggregate and advanced with the same score in the 2002 quarterfinals. Bayern won the 2001 semifinals 3-1 on aggregate, and also got the best of Madrid in the group stage in 2000 with a 4-2 victory in Madrid and a 4-1 win in Munich.

Bayern also won the teams' first two matchups, in the semifinals in 1976 and 1987. Madrid, however, won in the 1988 quarterfinals.

Bank of Saipan evens Majors division record

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ezra Ada and Jake Aguon alternated on the mound to lead Bank of Saipan to a 15-7 win over the Twins in last Saturday's game in the Majors division of the 2018 Saipan Little

League Baseball at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The win was the third in six games for Bank of Saipan and its even record put them in a tie with McDonald's for fifth to sixth place in the nine-team field. The loss was the seventh

straight for the Twins.

Ada tossed 3 2/3 innings in start and was tagged with four earned runs on four hits with five strikeouts, and six walks. Aguon pitched 2 1/3 innings in relief with no earned runs on two hits and he



also posted two strikeouts and two walks.

Aguon went 2-for-4 at bat with a double and two runs, while Jesse Stole had three RBIs on a 2-for-3 batting. Stole had an RBI double in the Bank of Saipan's six-run second inning, while

Jesus Tyquienico, 2-for-2, touched home plate four times and had a triple.

Comets 10, Cubs 7

Patty Mendiola fanned seven and scored two runs to help the Comets get past the Cubs in the other Majors division

game also last Saturday.

Mendiola tossed a one-hitter in 3 1/2 innings in relief with a walk and seven strikeouts. She also went 1-for-2 with two runs and an RBI double, as the Comets scored seven runs in the fifth.

Sam Aidan started for the Comets and lasted 2 1/2 innings, surrendering three earned runs on four hits, retiring three, and walking three more.

Luis Litulumar went 2-for-3 and scored twice in the game for the Comets, while Fernando Sanchez had an RBI triple in the seventh.

SBL to select players for Micro Games-bound team next week

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Baseball League will meet on April 30 to select the members of the CNMI national baseball team that will be competing in the 9th Micronesian Games set from July 15 to 27 in Yap.

The meeting will be held at 5:30pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium's conference room, as no SBL game will be played that night.

SBL coordinator Tony Rogolifo said managers and coaches would help him with the deliberation to pick the 22 members of the squad that would try to regain the gold medal the CNMI last won in the 2006 when Saipan hosted the Micro Games. The Commonwealth settled for back-to-back silver medals in the 2010 edition in Palau and four years ago in Pohnpei.

The statistics of the first round of the 2018 SBL season will be used as one of the bases for selecting the players for the Micro Games-bound team. Rogolifo, in an earlier interview with the *Saipan Tri-*

bune, said that they would also look into how each player reacts and handles certain offensive and defensive situations during games in choosing the members of the squad.

"What they do on the field and how they perform in other tight situations would also be a factor," he said.

The selection will be made before the month ends, as SBL is pressed to beat the May 1 deadline imposed by the Northern Marianas Sports Association for all federations that would compete in the Micro Games.

NMSA is hoping to have



the names and credentials—passport-size photos and cop-

ies of the business page of their passports—of all CNMI athletes going to Yap for accreditation purposes. NMSA president Michael White said that athletes who previously

competed and were accredited in past Micro Games are no longer required to submit their passport copies and photos.

Meanwhile, Rogolifo said there will also be an alternate pool of prospective players who will be on standby in case members of the original selection are dropped from the team.



THE KASELEHLIE PRESS

A CNMI player pitches to Pohnpei during their elimination round match in the 2014 Micronesian Games in Pohnpei.

BEARS

From Page 28

relieve Frankie. Peter came in when Henry Lizama was up to bat. Rangamar, who stole second, scored on Henry Lizama's infield hit to tie the game.

Henry Lizama was then safe at second on Mario Aguon's throwing error, while Kiku Lizama walked and Virgil Secharmidal loaded the bases after another Falcons error, this time by Peter.

A.J. Lizama, who had already blasted two home runs this season, had a soft chopper with the ball dropping

near the pitcher's mound. Peter, with Lizama running toward first base, managed to pick up the ball but made another throwing error that allowed Henry Lizama to score the game-winning run.

Frankie, before Peter replaced him, had 11 strikeouts and walked four. He surrendered an earned run on five hits.

The Bears-Falcons tiff turned into a pitching duel with Frankie and Jose Lizama keeping each team's batters in check. The Bears' Rick Dela Cruz and the Falcons' J.J. Lifofoi were the only two players who man-

aged to have two hits the entire game.

Jose Lizama tossed a complete game for the Bears—six innings in shutout—with three of the Falcons' four runs earned charged to him. He gave up six hits with seven strikeouts and no walks.

Indians 17, Outlaws 6

Jared Camacho pitched 3.2 no-hit innings in relief, while Richard Atalig, Jose Camacho, and Robert Tudela drove in two runs each to help the Indians end eight games of futility with a one-sided win over the Outlaws last Monday night.

Jared Camacho was tagged with one earned run—Chris Myers, who walked, scored on a T.J. Dela Cruz fielder's choice. Camacho also fanned four and walked five.

Atalig went 3-for-4 with two runs, while Tudela scored a run on a 3-for-5 performance at the plate, and Jose Camacho hit 1-for-4 with two runs and a two-RBI single in the sixth inning. Perry Celis went 2-for-4 with a triple and three runs.

Verlance Secharmidal finished 3-for-4, with three runs for the Outlaws, which dropped its ninth straight match to end the first round.

STEELE

From Page 27

CNMI will be allowed to turn in the players' names once the PIC competition is done and points are added for the final rankings.

Meanwhile, joining Steele and Kang in the Top 5 are Andy Kim (2,575), Isaac Heo (1,413), and Hyun Min Cho (1,250). Other players who have gained at least 1,000 ranking points are Seung Won Lee (1,200), Eubin Park (1,125), and Seung Jin Paik (1,000).

In other age groups, Ken Song, Sam Ryu, and David Kwon pace the boys U18, U16, and U12, respectively.

Song has earned 2,450

points to lead Sean Lee (1,875), Jim Min Woo (1,750), Robbie Schorr (1,000), and Seung Jin Paik (1,000). Schorr, the leader last season played only in the TanHoldings Classic and won the event, as he was mostly competing off-island this year.

Ryu collected 1,500 in last weekend's event to bring his total to 1,750, ahead of the 1,275 of Daniel Heo, 1,000 of Schorr, 900 of Jonathan Lim, and 750 of Woo. Kwon, on the other hand, has posted 3,350 for a 1,000-plus margin against Juncheol Hwang (2,025). Others in the Top 5 are Ruma Lee (1,500), Anthony Gregoire (1,250), and Nason Wessel (1,250).

TITLE

From Page 28

triumph against Matansa this weekend will create a three-way tie for the top spot—with TanHoldings, Kanoa-1, and MP United ending the tournament with similar 7-1-2 marks.

An MP United win and Kanoa-1 defeat would leave the former and TanHoldings-1 in a deadlock for the No. 1 spot (7-1-2 slates). Northern Mariana Islands Football As-

sociation, which organizes the youth league, will implement a playoff match in case of a two-way tie, while format for a three-team standoff has yet to be announced.

MP United remained in the title hunt following its 4-2 victory over Matansa last Saturday.

Andrew Chung delivered three goals for MP United, making them in succession, as he scored in the fifth, eighth, and 23rd minute. Dev Bachani handed MP United its first goal right in the opening minute of

the match. Matansa, which fell to a 4-0-5 record, drew goals from Nazzir Altamiro and Philip Megino in the 12th and 16th minute, respectively.

Meanwhile, Kanoa-1 made this weekend's games interesting, as it got its sixth victory after a 13-0 trashing of the winless TanHoldings-2 last Saturday.

Taehun Han and Devin Propst registered three goals apiece for Kanoa-1, which handed TanHoldings-1 its lone loss so far this season. Han lit

up the board in the 11th, 27th, and 48th minute, while Propst posted a hat trick as he scored in the 13th, 33rd, and 42nd. Jim Kurt Maniago and John Mark Anastacio added two goals apiece, while Sean Gil, Paulo Jerome Quidato, and Ruben Guerrero chipped in one each to complete Kanoa-1 demolition of the hapless TanHoldings-2.

TanHoldings-1 will try to enter the win column for the last time this weekend when it takes on spoiler Kanoa-2.

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winning squad.

Boys U15 Game

RT Law Rollers 50 — Villarín 10, Kapwich 9, Morilla 8, Manglona 6, Tudela 6, Pangelinan 4, Cruz 4, Castro 2.

Marauders Rollers 24 — Beronio 12, Manzano 4, Laitan 3, Eugenio 3, Escota 2.

Scoring by halves: 21-9, 50-24.

Boys U19 Game

Saipan Vegas Elite 53 — Mungwaath 12, Omelau 11, Atan 10, T. Quitagua 5, Fleming 4, Deleon Guerrero 4, N. Quitagua 4, Hapdei 3.

670 Sonics XVII 50 — Linaogo 12, Cadag 9, Sabangan 8, Kim 5, Ben 5, Ejercito 3, Ibanez 3, Francisco 2, Bartolo 2, Fabros 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-13, 30-21, 34-33, 45-45, 53-50 (OT).

Steele leads in junior tennis rankings

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Back-to-back singles title wins handed Richard Steele the top spot in the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association Junior Rankings.

Steele leads the boys U14 rankings with his 3,875 points, according to the information released by NMITA last Tuesday. The 14-year-old player got 1,500 points for ruling the singles event in last weekend's 2018 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships and 1,000 for prevailing in the same age group

contest in the 2018 Coconut Tennis Classic held last February. The Mt. Carmel School student's other ranking points came from the 2017 TanHoldings Tennis Classic (750 in singles and 250 in doubles) and the junior championships (375 for winning the doubles event with Andy Kim), and he has the most points among all players so far this season.

Steele is ahead by 900 points against Daniel Kang, who placed runner-up to the former in the last two tournaments to record 2,975 rank-



ing points. Kang tallied 1,125 in singles and 300 in doubles in last weekend's competition and registered 800 in the TanHoldings event and 750 in the Coconut Classic.

NMITA uses the rankings as one of the basis for selecting players that will represent the CNMI to the North Pacific Regional Championships, which will be held in Guam in June this year. NMITA official and CNMI Junior Team coach Jeff Race said they may have to submit the Commonwealth's roster for the compe-

tition in Guam before the last event of the season—the 2018 PIC Tennis Championships.

The Pacific Islands Club-sponsored event will start and conclude the juniors games

this weekend and Race will ask the NPTC organizers if the **See STEELE on Page 26**

Saipan Vegas, RT Law Rollers ease way to semis

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Saipan Vegas and RT Law NMI Rollers cruised to the semifinals of the boys U15 division of the 2018 Frank M. Diaz Memorial Youth League last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Saipan Vegas got a free ride to the Final Four after winning its playoff game against the Dandan Sonics via forfeiture, while the RT Law NMI Rollers pounced on sister team, Marauders NMI Rollers, in the second playoff match, 50-24, to take the third

semis seat.

With RT Law NMI Rollers and Saipan Vegas in the Final Four along with outright semifinalists 670 Sonics, only one slot to the next round was left. The NSA Young Warriors dued Bruce Almighty in the third playoff game last night and results of their match were unavailable at press time.

Erwin Villarín top-scored in the RT Law NMI Rollers' easy win over Marauders after tallying 10 points. He may have been the only player on his squad to hit double figures,



but he drew a lot of help from his teammates, as four of them chipped in at least 6 points apiece.

The RT Law NMI Rollers led right from the get-go and never looked back, as it ran a balance offense.

Next up for the RT Law NMI Rollers is Saipan Vegas, who was handed the second semis ticket as the Dandan Sonics was one man short and could not play in the curtain-raiser. Saipan Vegas and RT Law NMI Rollers will battle for the second finals seat on May 1 at 6:15pm. For the first semis match at 5pm, the 670 Sonics will face the winner in the Young Warriors-Bruce Almighty tiff. The one-game championship showdown will then take place on May 3 after the 5pm consolation match.

Meanwhile, in the boys U18 division game last Monday, Saipan Vegas Elite edged the 670 Sonics XVII in overtime, 53-50.

Albert Atan scored 6 of his 10 points in the extension period to lift Saipan Vegas Elite to the close win. He drilled the first basket—a triple—in overtime and followed it up with a 2-point field goal before splitting his charities to seal the win for his team.

Andreu Omelau posted the other field goal for Saipan Vegas Elite to also finish in double figures with his 11 markers. Richson Mungwaath had game-high 12 markers for the

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A RT Law NMI Rollers player attempts for a basket against a Bruce Almighty defender during their regular season game in the boys U15 division of the Diaz youth caging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. The RT Law NMI Rollers made it to the semis after beating the Marauders NMI Rollers in their playoff game last Tuesday, 50-24.

Governor's Tournament of Champions set for May 26 and 27

The premier golf tournament on Saipan—the 23rd Governor's Tournament of Champions—will be held on May 26 and 27 at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

The two-day competition will take place on the east and west courses of the Kagman facility with a shotgun start

at 7am on both rounds. Show time is at 6am.

Interested golfers can enter the following categories: Championship Flight, A, B, C, Ladies (Low Gross and Low Net), Seniors, and Super Seniors.

Lots of cash, in-kind, and raffle prizes will be awarded



at the end of the tournament, which aims to raise funds for the continuing beautification efforts on Saipan.

For more information, contact tournament director Ben Babauta at ben.babauta@dfs.com or call 236-2563/483-25-63. (PR)



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Richard Steele eyes his target during his title game against Daniel Kang in the boys U14 singles event of the 2018 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

1,500 enjoy PIC Hafa Adai 5K

The 5th Annual PIC Hafa Adai 5K last Saturday went down with a blast of colorful fun. It started out with an early morning fire dance duo by PIC Clubmates and a zumba warmup for the runners to stretch out their limbs before going on their 5K journey.

When the participants got back to PIC, they were wel-

comed with Pepsi products from PTC. There was also a Magic Show from rising star, Neil Fama, who awed the crowd with his quick hands and awesome tricks.

Organizers had dozens of raffle prizes, including gift certificates from Kensington, Saipan Vegas, and PIC. Awesome gear



from Triple J Wholesale, including a 32" TV, camping tents, and quality folding chairs, were raffled off as well.

A color elimination game was played where participants competed to win \$300. This year's winner was Clyde Sanchez, while Devin Galloway took the second place and won \$100.

This year's race drew 1,150 participants. Proceeds raised from this event will be given to Saipan Cares for Animals.

"Beth Pliscou and staff are really awesome people who give their time to take care of the animals who have no homes. I hope this event will help them find new homes and families for their animals," PIC Sports and Events manager Keoni Ichihara said.

Ichihara would like to thank the following for supporting last weekend's event: Kensington, Coral Ocean Golf Resort, E-Land, Pacific Trading Company, Saipan Vegas, Triple J Wholesale, and Let's Move Marianas. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Father and son Jerish and Mateo Angeles head back to the start/finish line of last Saturday's 5th Annual PIC Hafa Adai 5K.



Gronkowski says
he'll play for
Pats in 2018

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76ers, Warriors
march into
second round

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2018

Title decider in co-ed U13

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Two of the last three matches in the co-ed U13 division of the 2018 NMIFA Spring Youth League this Saturday will determine the winner of the season championship.

TanHoldings Football Club-1, MP United FC, and Kanoa FC-1 will figure in a three-way fight for the division crown this weekend, as the former missed sealing the title early after being forced to a draw by Kanoa FC-2, 1-1, in last Saturday's match at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

Markus Pelisamen threatened TanHoldings-1's title bid, as his goal in the 12th minute handed Kanoa-2 the lead. For-



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

TanHoldings Football Club-1's Anthony Bergancia, left, goes fancy with his kick, while a Kanoa FC-2 stays close on defense during their co-ed U13 division game in the 2018 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

Rota race planned as KONQER eyes expansion

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

KONQER chief experience officer Kaz Endo is looking to expand the race in other areas and a separate event in the CNMI's southern island of Rota could be the start.

A possible second KONQER obstacle course race location in the CNMI is in line with the Marianas Visitors Authority's sports tourism program, which managing director Chris Concepcion and the entire board have been



promoting aggressively. Concepcion mentioned the Rota event during KONQER's press conference last April 13 at the Chambre Bar of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Endo, who is joined by KONQER president Kelli

Wedd in the event, told *Saipan Tribune* that they are keeping details of the planned Rota event under wraps as they are still working out the other aspects of the race.

"We are planning to do an eco-adventure race in Rota this year. We will announce the dates as soon as things are finalized," Endo said.

"This [Rota race] will be totally different from KONQER Saipan. It is a stand-alone event and will be [held] later in the summer," he added.

Endo said they are also looking at other areas within the Pacific region and nearby countries, in the hopes of bringing the challenging obstacle course race to new places.

"We're always looking for exciting destinations. The Philippines, Taiwan (Chinese-Taipei), and South Korea are on our radar. Japan and China, of course, are future goals. Occa-

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JON PEREZ

Participants crawl as they try to get past one of the obstacles in last year's KONQER Saipan. The obstacle course race returns this Saturday with the Kilili Beach Park as the new venue.

Unfortunately for TanHoldings-1, Mark Joseph Roque scored in the 31st minute to avert an impending loss.

However, with the draw, TanHoldings-1 posted a 7-1-1 record, giving both MP United (6-1-2) and Kanoa-1 (6-1-2) a chance to win the division



championship.

TanHoldings-1 will duel MP United in the final weekend of the double-round robin competition with the former needing only a draw to secure the title. An MP United victory coupled with Kanoa-1's

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Bears nip Falcons on walk-off error

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Henry Lizama scored the winning run on a walk-off error, as the Chalan Kanoa Bears rallied past the Falcons, 5-4, in their 2018 Saipan Baseball League game last Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Bears tied idle GSM atop the standings with the win, as the two teams now hold identical 8-1 records, entering the second round. The Falcons, after the nerve-racking and more than three-hour match, dropped to 6-3 to join the Mariners in second place. The season has been extended to a second round after coaches got additional funds to prolong the competition.

The Bears, whose game against the Falcons last April

18 was canceled due to rain, were down entering the bottom of the ninth, 2-4. Things



looked a little bleak for the CK-based squad, especially with Falcons ace pitcher Frankie Lieto on the mound.

Lieto, with one out and runners at the corner, was going for a complete game, but Falcons manager Doru Camacho gambled on replacing him with his brother, Peter.

Fred Songao had a lead-off walk against Frankie Lieto, but the former later went out on a Ben Flores fielder's choice. Flores moved to third on a Shakobe Rangamar single and then the former stole home to move the Bears within one, 3-4.

That was when Camacho decided to bring in Peter to

See BEARS on Page 26



JON PEREZ

The Chalan Kanoa Bears' Fred Songao, right, and Falcons first baseman Mario Aguon watch the direction of the ball before making their move at the bottom of the ninth inning of their nerve-racking game in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League last Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.